

'Jewish settler population grew by 3.3 per cent'

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Jewish settler population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip grew by 3.3 per cent — from 163,881 to 169,339 — in the first six months of this year, a newspaper said Monday.

The increase was due equally to births and to Israelis moving to the disputed lands where the Palestinians want to establish a future state, the Haaretz daily said.

The newspaper cited yet-to-be-published figures by

the Interior Ministry. Ministry spokeswoman Tova Elinson was not immediately available for comment.

Haaretz said that in 1997, the settler population grew by 8.8 per cent, and by 3.3 per cent in the first half of 1998.

At the end of June 1998, 163,161 settlers lived in the West Bank and 6,166 in the Gaza Strip.

The continued expansion of Jewish settlements is a key point of contention in

the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, and the United States has urged Israel to freeze construction, to no avail.

Israel argues it needs to build to accommodate natural growth. However, the Palestinians and Israeli peace activists note that the construction goes far beyond that and that thousands of homes in settlements still stand empty.

More than half the settlers live in nine large settlements.

Palestinian beaten to death by Arafat's guards — rights groups

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Security guards for Palestinian President Yasser Arafat beat a man to death in Arafat's home over the weekend, two human rights groups charged on Monday.

Husseini Abed Abu Ghali, 55, died Sunday at Arafat's residence, where he had a meeting to register a complaint. His death was reported by a Gaza hospital.

The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (PHRMG) and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) both said that Ghali was beaten by Jazzar Al Ghul, one of Arafat's security officials.

"Al Ghul and his guards attacked Abu Ghali and beat him to death," the PHRMG said in a statement.

Ghul's body bore "marks made by military boots, evidence of blows to his body, and blood in his ears and mouth," the PCHR said. "We have sufficient reason to suspect foul play."

But an Arafat official told AFP that Ghul died of "a heart attack, while waiting for his meeting." The Palestinian Authority made no official comment on the charges.

Palestinian security forces have repeatedly been charged with human rights abuses since the beginning of Palestinian autonomy in 1994.

Two Palestinian policemen were executed on August 30 after being found guilty of a double murder.

Public sector strike ends in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's largest labour union, Histadrut, called off a strike Monday by 300,000 public sector workers after the government agreed to most of its salary demands.

"I urge all employees to return to work and to help revive the economy," Histadrut Secretary General Amir Peretz said following the signing of an agreement with Finance Minister Yankov Neeman ending the strike.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the end of the walkout and said the winner was the economy and not the unions. "We have a good economy. That's who won, and we've also got a good agreement," he told Israeli radio.

The agreement, however, did not concern public school teachers, who have been on strike since September 1, and Netanyahu urged them to go back to work so 1.5 million schoolchildren can return to

their studies.

"I call on the teachers to return to work immediately to allow children to go to class. Every day that goes by is one too many," he said.

Histadrut had been seeking an across-the-board pay raise of eight per cent for public sector workers but the government had been refusing to concede more than 1.25 per cent.

Under the agreement, certain categories of civil servants will receive a bonus in October equivalent to 30 per cent of their monthly salary.

Others in the public sector will receive pay raises of 1.56 per cent a month for four successive months beginning in September.

Salaries will also be adjusted for inflation, currently around four per cent a year.

A government-union panel was also set up to look into restricting or ending the practice of using temporary hires by the government.



A FRIENDLY CHAT: Israeli army officer Monir Daher (L) chats Monday with Hassan Hijazi, a Palestinian police officer, as the two meet at a recreational area along the northern shore of the Dead Sea just south of Jericho. The two officers are the respective chiefs of the "joint patrols" carried out through the District Coordinating Office (DCO) in the self-rule Jericho area. A larger meeting of DCO personnel was held at the resort. The DCO and "joint patrols" were established under the Oslo accords signed and implemented five years ago (Reuters photo)

Hizbollah apprehends Israel collaborators

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Shiite Hizbollah militia, which leads the fight to push Israel out of southern Lebanon, has apprehended nearly two dozen people accused of collaborating with the Israelis, a local newspaper reported Monday.

The first arrest followed the assassination of Hussam Al Amin, head of military operations for the pro-Syrian Amal militia in southern Lebanon, Al Nahar newspaper said.

Amin was killed in southern Lebanon August 25 after his car was fired upon by an Israeli helicopter.

Hizbollah apprehended a man suspected of being linked to the killing, interrogated him and then turned him over to Lebanese authorities, the paper said.

Following the interrogation Hizbollah apprehended another 21 people who have also been turned over, it said.

Iraq holds mass funeral for baby victims of sanctions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq held a mass funeral here Sunday for 27 newborns it said were victims of medical shortages caused by the U.N. economic sanctions in force since 1990.

The funeral procession for the babies, who were between three and 20 days old, stopped in front of the United Nations Development Programmes' Baghdad headquarters to protest the embargo.

One of the banners brandished by the crowd said: "By what right are Iraqi children killed?" Other banners cursed the United States, which Iraq has said is behind decisions to maintain the embargo.

A similar protest took place in early August outside the foreign ministry in Baghdad, when a funeral procession for 35 Iraqi children demonstrated during the visit of U.N. arms chief Richard Butler.

Iraq's Health Minister Umid Medhat on Monday

accused the United States and Britain of blocking contracts for medicine agreed under the oil-for-food programme.

"Humanity's enemies [Washington and London] continue to block the approval of contracts for medicine and medical equipment submitted during the fourth phase of the programme, giving non-scientific excuses," the minister said, quoted by the local Nabd Al Shabah weekly.

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"Humanity's enemies [Washington and London] continue to block the approval of contracts for medicine and medical equipment submitted during the fourth phase of the programme, giving non-scientific excuses," the minister said, quoted by the local Nabd Al Shabah weekly.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Israel knows fate of MIAs in Lebanon'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has definitive new information on the fate of three soldiers missing in action in Lebanon since 1982, an Israeli general said in an interview published Monday.

"We know very precisely what happened during the tank battle of Sultan Yacub, Lebanon, June 11, 1982," when several Israeli soldiers were killed or captured, General Gidon Shefer told the Yediot Aharanot newspaper. In August 1997, opposition Labour Party MP Salah said he was told he was wrapped up in a visit to Syria that the three soldiers had been buried in the Jewish cemetery in Damascus. "A member of the Damascus Jewish community witnessed the burial," he said.

Kuwait slams Iraq over PoWs issue

CAIRO (AFP) — Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah on Monday accused Iraq of dragging its feet in accounting for Kuwaiti nationals who went missing during the Gulf war. "Iraq has been dragging its feet for the past eight years and does not want to give clarifications, even verbally, although we have formally given information about 128 Kuwaitis captured by Iraq," Sheikh Salem said. Kuwait has repeatedly demanded clarifications over the fate of 600 people missing or believed to be detained in Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war. Baghdad has admitted that Iraqi soldiers arrested an unspecified number of people when they withdrew from Kuwait but said it lost track of them after a Shiite Muslim rebellion which broke out at the end of the Gulf war.

Saudi prince receives Iran's ambassador

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz met Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Reza Nuri on Monday in Riyadh, the official SPA news agency said. Details of their meeting were not given, but on Saturday, Iranian newspapers said Tehran had approached Riyadh for help in freeing its 10 diplomats allegedly held by Afghanistan's Taliban militia.

Iraq considering taking steps against U.N.

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq warned Monday it is within a "hair's-breadth" of taking new measures against the United Nations if the Security Council suspends a review of the sanctions imposed on Baghdad. The Security Council "must not be an instrument of American policies and must examine Iraq's legitimate demands, beginning with the lifting of the oil embargo," said the Babel newspaper, owned by the eldest son of the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Uday. "Iraq is within a hair's-breadth of following a new strategy decided by its leadership, if the Security Council does not come to a just resolution which puts things in order," Babel said.

Palestinians cling to dream of an independent state

By Khalil Abed Rabbo
Agence France Presse

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians who negotiated the first Oslo peace accord with Israel insist it still represents the first step on the road to a fully independent state, but critics say it was fundamentally flawed from the start.

For the negotiators, the Oslo accord created the first-ever Palestinian entity officially recognized by the outside world, and they blame the current peace deadlock on Israel's refusal to implement the agreement honestly.

Under the agreement signed on Sept. 13, 1993, Israel was to gradually extend Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over a five-year interim period, during which the two sides would hold negotiations on core final-status issues.

"For us the declaration was a step on the road towards ending the Israeli occupation and obtaining our freedom," says Ahmad Qureia, also known as Abu Alaa, the principal Palestinian negotiator of the accord and now speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

"The Oslo accords achieved many things. For the first time land came completely under the control of Palestinians and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was created on our land," he told AFP.

"Oslo also affected important elements of Israeli society whose understanding of Palestinian rights widened," he said.

Also on the plus side for the Palestinians, Oslo sanctioned the creation of the PNA, which quickly gained control over 60 per cent of the Gaza Strip and seven main West Bank towns.

But Oslo's detractors charge that the agreements do not spell out the scale of Israeli withdrawals from Palestinian territories and that the concessions were all on one side.

Five years later, Israel still holds 40 per cent of the Gaza Strip and three-quarters of the West Bank.

Jewish settlement expansion in the occupied territories continues, the safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza Strip has not been created and the airport and port remain unopened — hostage to Israeli security concerns.

"The agreement was flawed because it did not explicitly address the key issue of settlements which have been allowed to expand and to create facts on the ground," said Haidar Abdul Shafi, the leader of the Palestinian team at the 1991-93 Madrid and Washington talks which were superseded by Oslo.

"Essentially the agreement allowed the stronger side to impose its will on the weaker and the Israelis were really able to say 'we will act as we please,'" he said.

Negotiator Hassan Asfour also admits that "there was a gap between the Oslo announcement and the agreements which followed when, as a temporary strategy, the Palestinians made concessions on certain issues."

As part of the agreement, the Palestinians recognized the right of the state of Israel to live in "peace and security."

The Jewish state only recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as the "representative of the Palestinian people" and did not have to sanction a Palestinian state nor where its borders might lie.

"The agreement allowed the Palesti-

ans to take control of some cities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. But this does not mean a thing if they are banustans," says Abdul Shafi.

"The agreements also ignored the issue of return of refugees," he adds.

But Qureia insists that the agreements can still be made to work given goodwill on the Israeli side.

"The impasse which the peace process currently finds itself in is not a result of holes in the text of the Oslo agreement but of the mentality of an extremist government which does not really want peace."

Hanan Ashrawi, until recently the minister of higher education in the Palestinian cabinet, said that the problem lies in execution of Oslo.

"Any agreement which does not include an enforcement mechanism for execution becomes an abstract with the passing of time," she said.

"We cannot stop or stand still because that would lead to collapse. It is impossible to go back to what was before Oslo. Similarly, stopping where we are today is not an option because the situation will explode."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 Cartoon — The Pink Panther
15:30 Small Talk — "Quiz Show"
16:00 Drama — Neighbours
16:30 Doc. — Life Choices
17:00 Doc. — Royal Blood
18:00 French Programmes — Les Coeurs Brulés
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 French Programme — Fractales
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Step by Step — "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"
20:00 What Would You Do?
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Mini-series — An Independent Man (Ep. 6)
22:00 News in Jordan
22:30 Lonesome Dove
23:59 Feature film — Fugitive Among Us
01:30 End of TX.

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fajr
06:10 Sunrise/Duha
12:33 Dhur
16:07 Asr
18:57 Maghreb
20:16 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swadieh. Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
4622366
Anglican Church Tel.
4624833/4624811
St. Abram Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751
Amman International Church Tel. 5865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Swadieh Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331
The American Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be relatively hot with winds westerly to easterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.
Amman 21/35
Aqaba 26/41
Deserts 18/36
Jordan Valley 25/41
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.
Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:
Ajloun 26
Jerash 35
Um Qays 34
Madaba 34
Petra 35
Dead Sea 40

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour 4750197
Dr. Afif Shalabi 4898863
Dr. Khalil Ramadan 4774397
Dr. Nidal Dahleh 5827195

Al Asema pharmacy 4637055
Al Salam pharmacy 4636730
Shmeissani pharmacy 4637660
Nairokh pharmacy 4623672
IRBID:
Dr. Issam Salih 246858
Al Quds pharmacy 4623672
ZARQA:
Dr. Rabi' Atallah 994424
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417
EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 4621111
4637777
Fire Brigade 4617101
Blood Bank 4775121
Highway Police 5343402
Traffic Police 4896390
Public Security Dept. 4630321
Hotel Complaints 5605800
Price Complaints 5661176
Water & Sewage Complaints 4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101
Jordan Television 4773111
Radio Jordan 4774111
Water Authority 5680100
J. Electricity Authority 5815615
Electric Power Co. 4636381
RJ Flight Information 44-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53200
HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdi 5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5856856
Luzmila 4630195
Khalidi Maternity 4644281/6
Akileh Maternity 4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman 4636140
Palestine, Shmeissani 5607071
Shmeissani Hospital 5669131
University Hospital 5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667279
Al-Ahli, Abdali 5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 477101/3
Al-Bashir 4775111/26
Army, Marka 4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50
Amal Hospital 5674155
ZARQA:
Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905660
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990999
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al Naftis Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:10 Jordan (RJ) Flights
07:30 Jordan (RJ) Flights
08:00 Tuzor (Tunisia) (add) (RJ)
08:05 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
10:15 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:25 Jeddah (RJ)
13:25 Jeddah (RJ)
17:00 Kuwait (RJ)
18:45 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
Other Flights
09:00 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Riyadh (SV)

13:30 Aden (TY)
14:25 Munich (LH)
15:00 Istanbul (TK)
16:10 Bahrain, Doha (GF)
16:10 Dubai (EK)
18:05 Kiev (6U)
19:00 Paris (AF)
20:25 Tel Aviv (LY)
21:25 Beirut (ME)
23:35 Larnaca (CY)
23:40 Amsterdam (KL)
00:55 Bucharest (RO)
03:00 Rome (AZ)
04:25 London (BA)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
10:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA and proceeding to Marka Airport) (RW)
19:20 Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIA) (RW)
18:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)
23:25 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
7:45 Beirut (RJ)
08:40 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
09:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, London (RJ)
12:35 Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:45 Kuwait (add) (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
Other Flights
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14:30 Aden (TY)
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16:00 Istanbul (TK)
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17:20 Dubai (EK)
19:05 Kiev (6U)
21:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
23:55 Beirut (ME)
00:40 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
01:55 Bucharest (RO)
04:00 Rome (AZ)
06:35 Larnaca (CY)
07:30 Paris (AF)
09:20 London (BA)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
08:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
09:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
17:30 Tel Aviv (from Marka Airport) (RW)
21:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Home

Film 'Nass'

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Film 'Nass'

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Film 'Nasser' opens today following approval

By Amy Henderson

AMMAN — The controversial film "Nasser" will premiere today at cinemas in the capital, and movie-goers will be privy to an unedited showing.

Mohammad Neirab, the film's local distributor, yesterday said he was pleasantly surprised by a decision by Information Minister Nasser Judeh to allow the film to be shown without any cuts after having originally been banned from the country altogether last month.

The film, depicting the life of former Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser and directed by renowned

Syrian director Anwar Qowadri, caused an uproar two weeks ago when the Press and Publications Department banned the movie for "violating audio/visual content regulations."

Qowadri and Neirab were later informed that some scenes of the movie presented a "false impression of Jordan and its role in the region."

The director said he had been shocked by the decision after having been advised by His Majesty King Hussein during the production of the movie, but offered to cut out three minutes worth of "offensive"

material. Neirab told the Jordan Times that the PPD had been offended by a scene showing a telephone call between Nasser and King Hussein during the fall disturbances of 1970.

The information minister then offered to review the movie personally.

The film has caused a stir not only in Amman, but also in Cairo, where it opened last month. Political circles in the "mother of the world" blasted the movie as an attack on the biography of Abdul Hakim Amr, the Egyptian chief of staff during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. The movie has been

shown at cinemas throughout the region's capitals and was featured in an Arab film festival in Paris this summer.

Qowadri earlier said Jordan's decision to ban the movie drew into question Jordan's democratic path.

"In light of Jordan's courageous decision to premier Al Risaleh when no other capital would show the film, the decision to ban Nasser is astounding," he was quoted as saying.

Al Risaleh (The Message), a film about the message of Islam, was banned in all Levantine capitals except Amman after some Muslims said the film was sacrilegious.

Jordan can become Mideast's business hub — Crown Prince

By Ahmed Naser

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday told Jordanian businesspersons that the Kingdom could become the Middle East's business hub in the near future.

Speaking at the first Jordanian Businessperson's Conference, which he inaugurated yesterday morning, Prince Hassan said: "... in the last few days... influential international investors have told me that Jordan will attain economic importance."

"The east Mediterranean region is on the verge of [an economic] boom with Jordan at the heart of it," the Regent added.

The Crown Prince challenged Jordanian businesspersons to rise to the opportunity, asking: "Do you want to be part of this future [these foreign investors] see and also want to be part of?"

Hundreds of Jordanian businesspersons from the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar are attending the conference, which will deal with enhancing investment opportunities in the country.

Praising Jordan's human resources, Prince Hassan said: "We live in a world where wealth does not only rely on natural resources, but also on human resources," adding that the success of "expatriates" bears evidence of Jordan's competitive edge in this regard.

"I am sure that many of you toiled to collect your savings... And after gathering the fruits of your labour, you felt that it was your obligation towards yourself, your family and country to invest a portion of that hard-earned income in the noble cause of serving your nation," he added.

Underlining the importance of "partnership," the Crown Prince noted that people are partners in three resources: water, sustenance and energy.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, yesterday addresses participants at the first Jordanian Businessperson's Conference (Photo by Baghdad)

He cited the recent water crisis in Amman and called on the government to consider the foundation of a public share-holding water company, in which all could invest.

The Regent said such an endeavour is not aimed at only generating profit, but fostering group spirit, "where all own water... and are responsible for its use, cleanliness and preservation."

Voicing hope that this project would materialise soon, the Crown Prince said sustainable partnerships breed both development and a sense of belonging.

"We do not view investment as only a sum of money... but as a means of creating job opportunities... and the entrenchment of social security against fear, hunger and thirst," he said.

"We do not claim that Jordan is a perfect country; however, we will not tire from exerting all efforts to achieve that," said Prince Hassan, adding that investment laws are continuously being refined.

The Regent said Jordan is working towards enhancing civil institutions and laws to

encourage Arabs and foreigners, as well as Jordanians, to invest in the Kingdom.

In his address to the conference, Hamdi Tabaa, president of the Jordan Businessmen's Association, noted that Jordan was among the first Arab countries to sign the pan-Arab market agreement and hosted the first inter-Arab economic summit. He called for the increase of strategic partnerships between the Kingdom and the Arab World.

Tabaa stressed the urgency of lifting all impediments to the free flow of goods and people between Arab countries, in light of the current global trend towards the formation of giant economic blocs and called for the lifting of U.N. sanctions on Iraq.

Citing both the critical stage of the peace process and an expected boost of the Kingdom's economy through bilateral trade with the Palestinian self-rule territories, Tabaa said: "We stand behind our leadership in enhancing economic relations with our brothers in Palestine... We are... all in the same boat."

Speaking on behalf of Jordanian businesspersons abroad, Khatalan Fahmawi presented proposals to improve the investment climate in Jordan. These included a commercial law that would allow swift and efficient arbitration, establishment of an independent investment commission tied directly to the prime minister to cut down time-consuming routines, training programmes for government officials dealing with investors and the formation of chambers of commerce for Jordanian businesspersons all over the world.

Fahmawi also highlighted the importance of revising both the tax and customs laws, as Jordan awaits entry into the World Trade Organisation and prepares to implement the provisions of the Euro-Med Partnership agreement.

The conference, organised by the association and the Jordan Investment Promotion Corporation under the patronage of the Crown Prince, is sponsored by 11 Jordanian financial institutions and will continue until Sept. 11.

Interior minister declines to intervene in Communist Party row

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Minister of Interior Nayef Qadi Monday said the feud between rival factions in the Jordan Communist Party is "an internal matter that concerns the JCP" and should be "settled through constructive dialogue."

In separate letters addressed to JCP Secretary General Munir Hamarneh and former long-time party chief Yacoub Zayadine, who broke from Hamarneh's leadership, Qadi said: "There were exchanges of accusations and disputes about the legitimacy [of each fac-

tion], and allegations of improper practices. It is none of our business, and we have no right to interfere. They have to reach a solution in the way they see fit."

The minister's letters were written in reply to letters he received from Hamarneh and Zayadine requesting that the ministry decide who legally represents the JCP.

In August, a four-month dispute over the party's leadership resulted in dozens of JCP members convening what they termed an extraordinary session of the party and electing Zayadine as their

leader. Hamarneh rejected the outcome of that session and expelled 11 members from the party, including Zayadine.

According to the minister, "Until now no violation of the Political Parties Law has been registered. But if [this happens], we will have other things to say. If their differences continue, we believe that they should take the matter to court," Qadi said.

"The ministry hopes that the party members will cooperate to settle their differences," he said. Hamarneh said he will consult with lawyers to

decide what steps to take next.

He added that he thought "the minister's reply should have been clearer. His answer was vague, but we will clarify that during our meeting with him soon."

He said that of the 139 members who attended the JCP national conference held earlier this year, "only 40 joined with Zayadine."

"Zayadine did not leave room for reconciliation, and what happened is a consequence of his ambition to dominate the party. We will see whether we will go to court or not," he added.

Zayadine was unavailable for comment.

What's Going On

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER 98 FESTIVAL

"Summer 98" cultural activities at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, to last until Sept. 30, include:

EXHIBITIONS

* 50 years of graphic art from Lebanon and works by Jordanian artist Sahel Hiyari at the Main House.

* Works by Iraqi artist Samer Usama and by Jordanian artist Said Haddadin at the Blue House.

* Installation works by Jordanian artist Samia Zaru at the Byzantine Church.

* Exhibition of photographs "Memory of a Place" by Jordanian artist Hussein Da'seh at the Museum.

13TH ITALIAN FILM WEEK

* Two films entitled "Two in a Tardivo" and "Cous Cous" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. respectively.

* Two films entitled "Cous Cous" and "Isotata" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Wednesday Sept. 9 at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. respectively.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Iraqi artist Ismail Sheikhly, Suzanne Sheikhly, and Khalid Qassab entitled "Pioneers of the Fifties" at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uthaina, until Sept. 21 (Tel. 5526932).

* Paintings by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 30.

* Exhibition of wrought iron furniture by Jordanian artist Salim Al Bandak at Al Baidar Hall, Kan Zaman village (Tel. 5862531), until Sept. 17.



MINISTER VISITS NEWSPAPERS: Information Minister Nasser Judeh Monday speaks to journalists at a local daily as part of government efforts to launch a dialogue between the Information Ministry and the media to better serve the national interests (Petra photo)

U.N. food programme delivers wheat for development project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations World Food Programme has delivered about 6,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Jordan to support its "Participatory Land Improvement" project, a WFP statement said.

The vessel "Sea Princess" carrying the wheat for the WFP berthed at Aqaba port earlier this week. The consignment was received at the port by the World Food Programme and a representa-

tive of the Ministry of Agriculture, which is the implementing agency of the project, the statement said.

The wheat, together with pulses and edible oil, will be distributed to a number of poor farmers, forestry and nursery workers and members of the Jordanian Cooperative Corporation for the development of rangeland.

Since the beginning of the Participatory Land

Improvement project in October 1997, the WFP has provided 10,498 metric tonnes of wheat, 626 metric tonnes of edible oil, and 261 metric tonnes of pulses, according to the statement.

It added that the WFP plans to supply a total of 42,745 tonnes of wheat, 2,565 tonnes of edible oil and 2,565 tonnes of pulses, worth a total of about \$17 million, over the five-year project.

Minister meets with council chief

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Nayef Qadi on Monday held discussions with the secretary general of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, Ahmad Ben Mohammad Salem, on preparations for the council's 16th meeting, to be held in Amman in December.

Qadi and Salem also reviewed increasing cooperation between the ministry and the council on issues related to fighting crime and Arab internal security.

Following the meeting, Qadi told reporters that Salem delivered a verbal message from Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz, who is the honorary president of the council.

He said the message dealt with enhancing Saudi-Jordanian cooperation in security fields.

For his part, Salem said all Arab countries have expressed willingness to take part in the meetings.

Media battle over writers' groups importance to cultural scene

By a staff reporter

AMMAN — A media battle has started between the Jordan Writers Union and the Jordan Writers Association with prominent members from each group accusing the other organisation of failing to contribute to the cultural movement in Jordan.

An article carried last week in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i quoted JWA President Fakri Kawar as saying that a small country like Jordan with

less than five million people does not need more than one organisation to look after the interests of writers and promote the cultural movement.

In a column entitled "Will the union dissolve itself?" Kawar expressed his concern over the unity of members involved in the country's cultural scene. He advised the union's members to dissolve their group and join the association to strengthen the cultural movement.

Kawar's article followed reports

that seven of the union's nine board members resigned in protest against what they described as disharmony among board members, the board's failure to convene regular meetings to discuss cultural activities and an "unacceptable attitude" on the part of the union's president.

"The resignation of the union board members was due to disputes over the board's hierarchy and not because of ideological and cultural differences," Kawar said in his column.

Kawar added that since all writers in Jordan have a common goal, they should work together for the common good of the country.

But in a column defending the union published yesterday in Al Ra'i, former JWA Vice President Rinda Khatib, one of the seven board members who resigned, called on the association to dissolve itself and urged its members to join the union. Khatib described the disputes among the union's board members as

"a healthy sign" that demonstrated the union's pluralistic nature. She noted that the government decided 10 years ago to dissolve the JWA because of continued differences among its board members and the group's politicisation.

Khatib argued that the reason behind the board members' dispute was ability of union members to "air their views openly, unlike their counterparts in the association."

Man sentenced to life in prison for murdering wife, children

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Monday sentenced a 40-year-old man to life in prison with hard labour after finding him guilty of killing his wife and four children in Karak in May of last year.

Awad Mohammad was sentenced to life on five counts of manslaughter. Mohammad, who was charged with killing his 35-year-old wife and four of his six children on May 13, had said he committed a crime of honour, authorities said.

But in its ruling yesterday, the court tribunal rejected the defendant's argument on the grounds that "the testimonies of the children were contradictory."

"The defendant's daughter, Nereeman, eight, first told police that her father gave her 60 piasters to claim that her mother was 'immoral,' then in court she claimed that she saw a strange man with her mother in their house," presiding Judge Mohammad Ajarmeh said.

"The court cannot consider these contradictory testimonies and judge it as a crime of honour," Judge Ajarmeh told the courtroom.

The court also changed the original charge of premeditated murder, which could

have carried the death penalty, to manslaughter.

"It was clear to the court that Mohammad shot his family after quarrelling with his wife," the court maintained.

The judge added that "due to this heinous crime, and the fact that the father of Samar Salah, the defendant's wife, did not drop charges against the defendant, the court finds no reason to reduce the sentence."

Criminal Prosecutor Majed Azah had asked the court for the maximum penalty, which in the case of manslaughter is life in prison.

Mohammad's defence attorney Ali Talafih told the Jordan Times following the conclusion of the 15-minute court session that he planned to appeal the verdict.

"The grandfather of the children dropped the charges against his son, which would have reduced my client's sentence to 15 years, a fact the court did not take into consideration," Talafih said.

Mohammad was also convicted of attempted manslaughter, threatening the life of his daughter (Nereeman) and possession of an unlicensed gun.

According to the prosecu-

tion charge sheet, the defendant plotted to kill his wife and children after ten years of marriage "because he suspected that the children were not his."

On the night of the incident, the suspect locked his wife and six children in their house, drew a gun he had purchased a few months before the incident, and shot five of his family at close range.

Close friends and relatives of the defendant told the Jordan Times shortly after the incident that Mohammad, a taxi driver in Aqaba, had suffered from financial problems and that "they were the actual reason why he killed his family."

Paternity tests performed on the child victims proved that they were Mohammad's children.

Samar Salah's mother had testified earlier that her daughter was frequently "assaulted by her husband and that he had threatened to kill her."

"My daughter told me several times that her husband used to beat her and kick her out of the house with her children and had asked her to go and find him another wife. When she refused, he said he would kill her," the victim's mother told the court.

Literacy rate rises to 90 per cent — official

AMMAN (Petra) — The literacy rate in the country rose to 90 per cent by the end of last year as a result of Education Ministry campaigns in schools and adult literacy classes, an official said Monday.

In a statement marking International Literacy Day on Sept. 9, Mahmoud Massad, director of the ministry's general education department, said the ministry has offered literacy and adult education classes to over 350,000 people since the programme was started in the early 1960s.

In 1964, the Education Ministry made education compulsory until ninth grade and later increased it to tenth grade, helping reduce the illiteracy rate in the Kingdom, said Massad.

He noted that the ministry's measures to open schools in all areas of the country and to improve the quality of education, moves he said helped achieve an attendance rate of 98 per cent for the 1996-97 school year.

Massad added that the adult literacy and education classes work with groups of 10-15 people and provide basic education to a level corresponding to sixth grade.

Comparing Jordan's literacy rates with those in the rest of the Arab World, Massad said the average illiteracy rate is approximately 51 per cent, or almost 36 million people over 15 years of age.

Time	Flight
3:10	Paris
4:05	Moscow
5:00	Cairo
11:15	Berlin
11:25	London
11:40	Dubai
12:00	Abu Dhabi
Other Flights	
07:25	Frankfurt
10:00	Cairo
14:30	Riyadh
14:30	Aden
15:15	Muscat
16:00	Beirut
17:20	Doha
17:20	Kuwait
19:05	Jeddah
21:10	Bahrain
23:55	Amman
00:40	Beirut
01:55	Riyadh
04:00	Amman
06:35	Amman
07:30	London
09:20	Amman
Royal Wings (RW) Flights	
08:00	Aqaba from Madaba
09:30	Aqaba from Madaba
09:30	Aqaba from Madaba
17:30	Aqaba from Madaba
21:30	Aqaba from Madaba

U.S. officials to press Milosevic on human rights abuses in Kosovo

BELGRADE (AFP) — The top U.S. human rights official, John Sbatuck, was expected to insist in talks with President Slobodan Milosevic Monday that Belgrade act to mitigate the humanitarian disaster he has accused it of making in Kosovo.

"Belgrade cannot look away from the disaster it has created," Sbatuck, the U.S. deputy secretary of state for human rights, said as he arrived here Sunday prior to his scheduled meeting with Milosevic.

He was accompanied by former U.S. Senator Bob Dole, a one-time Republican presidential candidate, who made a two-day visit with Sbatuck to Kosovo, touring former strongholds of the separatist rebel Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) Sunday.

"We have seen horrendous human rights violations, violations of humanitarian law and acts of punitive destruction on a massive scale," Sbatuck told reporters.

"We are deeply concerned about the plight of refugees and we note that as each day passes we come closer to a humanitarian disaster."

Thousands of people, mostly ethnic Albanians, are believed to be hiding in forests and hills after fleeing the fighting between Belgrade's troops and the KLA.

"If the authorities do not

take immediate action to stop the massive shelling of civilians and destruction of villages, many will be at serious risk of freezing or starving," Sbatuck said.

Dole added that "clearly, there is a humanitarian disaster here that is rapidly developing into a humanitarian catastrophe of tremendous proportions."

Sbatuck said that the issue topping the talks with Milosevic would be "first-hand reports that security forces are separating men and boys from their families in villages and clusters of internally displaced persons."

Following armed clashes in the south of Kosovo, Serbian troops arrested some 450 suspected members of the KLA at the weekend.

Serbian state television (RTS) showed footage of dozens of men of fighting age, in civilian clothes, sitting or kneeling with their hands behind their heads, saying they were captured "terrorists," Belgrade's term for KLA rebels.

The two officials urged Belgrade to allow "impartial forensic experts" to examine reports and findings on alleged "mass grave sites" on both sides.

"All that we have seen points to the urgent need for investigation and prosecution by the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia

(ICTY)," Sbatuck said.

Meanwhile in the Kosovo capital Pristina, the clandestine ethnic Albanian parliament demanded an investigation by the ICTY of the "crimes committed in Kosovo."

It also called on the international community to "take urgent measures, with the assistance of NATO, to demilitarise Kosovo," the Albanian-language daily Bujku reported.

"This will create conditions needed for establishing an international provisional administration" in the province, the underground assembly said in a call to the European Union and the U.S., Bujku reported.

The unofficial Kosovo Albanian parliament, elected in clandestine polls on March 22, held its first constituent session on July 16.

Kosovo enjoyed an autonomous status until it was revoked by Belgrade in 1989. But the Albanians' call for independence from Serbia is not supported by the international community, which instead favours the idea of a high level of autonomy of Kosovo.

More than 900 people, mostly ethnic Albanians, have died since clashes began in late February when Belgrade troops launched a crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists fighting for the independence of the province.

U.N. rights chief runs into dissident outcry at start of China visit

BEIJING (AFP) — U.N. Human rights chief Mary Robinson ran into controversy Monday on her first day of landmark meetings with Beijing officials, as dissidents across China appealed for her help against political oppression.

When signing a memorandum of intent on improved technical cooperation between her office and Beijing, Robinson appeared to promise to listen to ordinary people and not just officials during her visit.

"I hope to contribute to the awareness of human rights amongst the Chinese public and to demonstrate my interest in and support of issues of their concern," she said in a prepared speech on the first visit to China by a U.N. Human Rights Commissioner.

Some 139 dissidents urged her to intervene on behalf of activist Zhao Changqing, 28. He was arrested in January for protesting after his bosses at a nuclear factory illegally barred him from running as its representative to China's parliament.

Among the signatories of the letter — at least the fifth sent to Robinson in two days — were prominent dissidents Wang Youcai, Xu Wenli, Lin Mu and Qing Yongmin, according to the Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

Zhao's three-year jail term was only made public Saturday on the eve of Robinson's arrival.

At the same time, the sister of political detainee Chen

Zengxiang wrote to Robinson from eastern Shandong province to say authorities in Qingdao city had violated the law by preventing him from seeing a lawyer, the centre said.

Authorities last week brought formal charges against Chen of seeking to overthrow state power. He has been detained since May for his connection to the underground opposition China Democracy Party.

Some 116 dissidents Sunday appealed to Robinson to visit one of the country's labour camps, which they said represent "large-scale and systematic" abuses of human rights.

Veteran dissident An Fuxing issued a written protest to draw Robinson's attention to Beijing's practice of barring exiled dissidents from returning to their homeland, which he said violated "basic principles of human rights."

The U.N. commissioner's spokesman Jose Diaz said the delegation had learned of the petitions through press reports but had not been directly contacted by dissidents.

"We've seen the reports of the letters and petitions but we haven't received any."

More than 50 activists in an earlier petition urged Robinson to meet dissidents personally. They fear Beijing will give her only upbeat official accounts of alleged human rights improvements while using her trip to boost its international image.

But Diaz said he was unaware of any requests for face-to-face meetings.

"I have had no direct contact in relation to any requests for a meeting," Robinson said before heading to China.

At Monday's signing ceremony she made no reference to the issue, saying only: "I see this first visit as an opportunity to inform myself of the human rights situation in China."

Chu Hailan, the wife of detained labour activist Liu Nianchun, told AFP the dissident community was "very disappointed" with the U.N. rights chief's plans.

"If Mary Robinson really knew about the situation of China's human rights, she should meet with us," she said. "If she only wants to talk with the government, the situation can't be improved."

Diaz said Robinson's schedule included many contacts with non-governmental figures, such as academic participants in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences workshop which she attended Monday afternoon.

At the workshop, which examined China's possible accession to U.N. human rights treaties, "people raised different issues in relation to Chinese legislation and how that affects citizens in everyday life," he said.

Earlier in the day Robinson signalled she had modest goals for the first visit, aimed mainly at laying the groundwork for progress. The signing of the memorandum of intent marked only "the beginning of a process," she said.

She had a working meeting and lunch with Foreign Affairs Assistant Minister Wang Guangya.



Cambodian Premier Hun Sen speaks at a news conference in Phnom Penh during which he announced an order to arrest prominent opposition figure Sam Rainsy. The arrest order followed a grenade attack on Hun Sen's residence in Phnom Penh earlier in the day. No one was injured in the attack (Reuters photo)

Cambodian strongman orders crackdown after grenade attack

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodian strongman Hun Sen Monday ordered a crackdown on opposition demonstrators and the arrest of rival Sam Rainsy after an early morning grenade attack on his residence.

Hun Sen blamed the morning drive-by attack on his unoccupied home on leaders of a nearly two-week-old opposition sit-in protesting against alleged fraud in the July 26 polls.

The powerful second prime minister, whose party won the polls, gave demonstrators just hours to disperse.

Hun Sen, who flew from the northern town of Siem Reap after the attack, said police were seeking to arrest Sam Rainsy, who is holed up in a United Nations office.

"Demonstrators must disperse by midnight. After that the demonstration will be closed down," he told a news conference, accusing protest leaders of plotting to destroy his victory in the elections.

"Four or five grenades do not destroy the election. They are trying to destroy it by provoking me into using force," he said.

The head of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) said the country's borders had been sealed off to those wanted for arrest and called on foreign missions not to offer them sanctuary.

The opposition Sam Rainsy Party immediately denied any link to the grenade attack and said any attempt to arrest its

leader would violate Cambodian and international law.

It called on Hun Sen to "deescalate the situation for the sake of peace and democracy in Cambodia."

Sam Rainsy remained holed up in the U.N. secretary general representative office in the Cambodian hotel after lengthy unscheduled talks there with the U.N. representative and the ambassadors of France, the United States, Australia, Canada and Singapore.

Details of the discussions were not immediately available.

Sam Rainsy had been scheduled to deliver a speech in the so-called "Democracy Square" late Monday, where hundreds of supporters of the opposition FUNCINPEC party led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh and his own party have occupied an area outside parliament calling for investigations into the polls.

But a spokesman for his party said Sam Rainsy had declared himself under U.N. protection and would remain in the U.N. office for "an unspecified period."

A FUNCINPEC statement condemned the grenade attack but made no mention of Sam Rainsy's predicament.

There were no injuries from the three grenades, two of which exploded. Security officials said four attackers rode up to the city centre residence on motorbikes, tossed the grenades into the compound and escaped.

Police chief Hok Lundy said one suspect had been

detained and investigations were continuing. The residence suffered light damage including five broken windows.

King Norodom Sihanouk expressed his "deepest regret" at the attack and appealed for calm.

"I appeal to my nation to please avoid creating violence that could bring dishonour upon us," he said in a statement from Siem Reap where he has been trying to broker an agreement to end the political deadlock.

The attack came on the final session of the three-day talks which according to the king have made no progress.

FUNCINPEC and the Sam Rainsy party filed more than 800 complaints regarding the polls, all of which were dismissed by the National Election Committee.

A fraction of those complaints were heard on appeal but subsequently rejected by the Constitutional Council.

The opposition claims both bodies are pro-CPP and has refused to recognise the official election results. These show the CPP winning just over 41 per cent of the vote, enough for a majority in parliament but not the two-thirds needed to form a government on its own.

The opposition won the remaining seats but has refused offers to form a coalition unless Hun Sen steps down. It vows to boycott parliament until its complaints are addressed, a move that could lead to constitutional crisis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Key French minister still in coma

PARIS (AFP) — Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the French interior minister, remained in a coma Monday after suffering heart failure during surgery last week, official sources said. A statement from the Val-de-Grace military hospital where the 59-year-old minister is being treated was expected later in the day. His government cabinet colleague, Education Minister Claude Allègre, this weekend described Chevènement's condition as "alarming because after an accident like this you can fear the consequences." Chevènement suffered heart failure Wednesday after proving allergic to an anaesthetic administered for a routine gall bladder operation. He was revived after almost an hour of cardiac massage but then fell into a coma. Tributes have been pouring in from all sides for the powerful minister, with even political rivals such as former Premier Edouard Balladur describing him as a man "of great courage and conviction" and wishing him a speedy recovery. His portfolio has been handed over temporarily to Jean-Jack Queyranne, junior minister for overseas territories. A hospital statement Saturday said Chevènement was "still in a reactive coma but his neurological condition is gradually improving."

Romania attends Silk Road conference

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Romanian President Emil Constantinescu left Monday morning for a conference in Baku on the creation of a major transit corridor for modern commodities along the ancient "Silk Road." Constantinescu will join representatives of some 34 countries and 18 international organisations — including the heads of state of Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan — in Baku Monday and Tuesday. They will discuss the creation of a transport corridor of low tariffs and improved infrastructure that will link up the former Soviet republics in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Ukraine. But many in Azerbaijan envision the conference as more than just an opportunity to improve the region's automobile, railway, air and sea routes. It is also seen as a way to enhance the country's own importance in the region — harking back to medieval days. Romania on the other hand sees the route as a way to improve its own prospects, hoping to become "an important player in oil drilling" in Central Asia, Constantinescu said.

Greenpeace protest at German gene-manipulated corn

BONN (R) — Protesters from the environmental lobby group Greenpeace Monday placed a giant warning label on a field in southern Germany which they said was being used to grow genetically engineered corn. They stretched a 400-square-metre banner reading "Attention — genetically-manipulated" and a large "X" as the sign for genetic engineering across a corn field in the town of Riegel am Kaiserstuhl near Freiburg. Greenpeace said the genetically manipulated corn was of a kind belonging to the Swiss pharmaceuticals firm Novartis and that it had been planted without the knowledge of those on the neighbouring land. "This is one of several hundred fields which lie hidden in Germany," Greenpeace said in a statement. The group said the Novartis corn was a health hazard because it was treated to be resistant to antibiotics and could therefore hinder the effectiveness of such medicines in human beings and animals. The genetically engineered crops could also be carried over into the neighbouring fields and crops through pollen dispersal and so affect other crops as well, Greenpeace said. "The neighbours must be able to be protected from the uncontrolled dispersal of the genetically engineered corn," said Greenpeace's gene technology expert Jan van Aken. "Otherwise their harvest will also be polluted by gene technology."

California church opens food court

GARDEN GROVE, California (AP) — The Rev. Robert H. Schuller hopes people will come to his church for a bit of religion — but stick around for the food. The Crystal Cathedral's expansion plans include a food court that will serve breakfast and lunch. "When the tourists come here, we want to feed their tummies and their souls," spokeswoman Claudia Holloway said Sunday. "Now people who are curious can stay longer and break bread together with their friends." Food and beverages won't, however, be allowed in the sanctuary. About 250,000 people a year visit the Orange County landmark and officials expect bigger crowds when the new 4,645-square-metre exhibition centre and food court is completed in 2000. Benjamin J. Hubbard, chairman of the department of comparative religion at California State University, said the church is blurring the secular and the ecclesiastical. "It smacks of the mall mentality gone crazy," Hubbard said. "You shop for religion and then swing by the food court."

Robber gives money back, gets arrested anyway

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — Police said a man threatened a woman at an automated teller machine and took \$20. Then, when she pleaded with him, he gave it back. Officers arrested James Bigger anyway. The 46-year-old woman was "scared to death" during the robbery Thursday evening. She shook uncontrollably and had difficulty breathing, according to the police report. The woman was withdrawing \$20 from an ATM when Bigger approached and ordered her to hand it to the cash, according to the criminal complaint. Bigger also allegedly threatened to kill her several times, pointing to a bulge under his T-shirt and telling her he had a gun. Bigger ordered the woman into her car, but she told him she'd withdrawn the \$20 because she was out of gas, the complaint said. After her "continued pleading," Bigger allegedly gave her back the money, offered her his hand and said, "No hard feelings?" When he walked away, she called police. Bigger, 33, was arrested at a nearby bar. He was charged with robbery, false imprisonment, attempted kidnapping and assault and was jailed without bail on a probation violation. Police said they found a bottle of vodka under his shirt, but no gun.

Bees flourish in New York City

NEW YORK (AP) — Bears are non-existent. Rats, pigeons and skunks are too reluctant to be much of a threat. The Big Apple, it turns out, is a great place to be a bee. "They do really well here," said David Graves, who has hundreds of thousands of honeybees in seven hives across New York City. "There are so many parks and gardens and rooftop flowerpots." They mind their own beeswax, too, and don't go around stinging sidewalk-bound New Yorkers. Graves puts his hives up on rooftops — as high as 12 stories — to keep them undisturbed. Each of Graves' hives can produce 23 kilograms of honey a year, which he sells for \$5 per 11 kilograms at the city's greenmarkets. His ordinary New England honey goes for \$3. Graves, 48, has been raising bees for 15 years. He got the up-on-the-roof idea one spring after black bears raided hives near his Becket, Massachusetts, home. "To avoid the bears, we put the hives up high," his wife, Mary, said Wednesday. "My husband had been selling at the New York greenmarkets for five years, and he looked around and saw that one thing you have a lot of in New York is rooftops."

Leprosy experts meet in Beijing to plan eradication by 2000

BEIJING (AFP) — More than 1,000 leprosy experts met in Beijing Monday to plan the total eradication of the infectious disease which still affects two million people worldwide.

Under the theme of "Creating a Leprosy-Free World," the experts are working towards eliminating the disease that attacks the skin, flesh and nerves, by the turn of the century.

"The 730 foreign delegates and their 400 Chinese counterparts will spend the next week coordinating eradication plans," a Chinese official on the organising committee of the 100th International Leprosy Congress said.

The World Health Organisation has set 2000 as its goal for the total eradication of leprosy, which is relatively easy to treat if caught in

the early stages.

Although numbers of leprosy have fallen sharply from 10 to 12 million sufferers in the mid-1980s to around two million, leprosy continues to attack the poorest regions of the world.

Upmost in the experts' discussions will be continued use of and funding for a combination of three drugs — rifampicin, dapsone and clofazimine — which

have been extremely effective in curing 8.5 million leprosy in the last decade.

India and Brazil are the countries worst hit by leprosy, which subsists in 60 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Host China has already had marked success in treating the disease with numbers of leprosy falling from an estimated 390,000 in 1957 to only 4,045 in 1997.

About 1,800 new cases were detected in 1997, down from 35,000 in 1958.

"In China, some 85 per cent of counties and cities have kept the rate of leprosy infection at under one per 100,000 people, and the goal is that 95 per cent of cities and counties will be under this rate by the year 2000," the official said.

"Our main problems

are in poor, remote areas with bad communications and China is pushing to give these areas the necessary support, and enough funding to allow swift treatment," he added.

Leprosy is an infectious disease that has attacked human beings for more than 3,000 years and is transmitted by long-term exposure to a patient with a chronic form of the bacterial disease.

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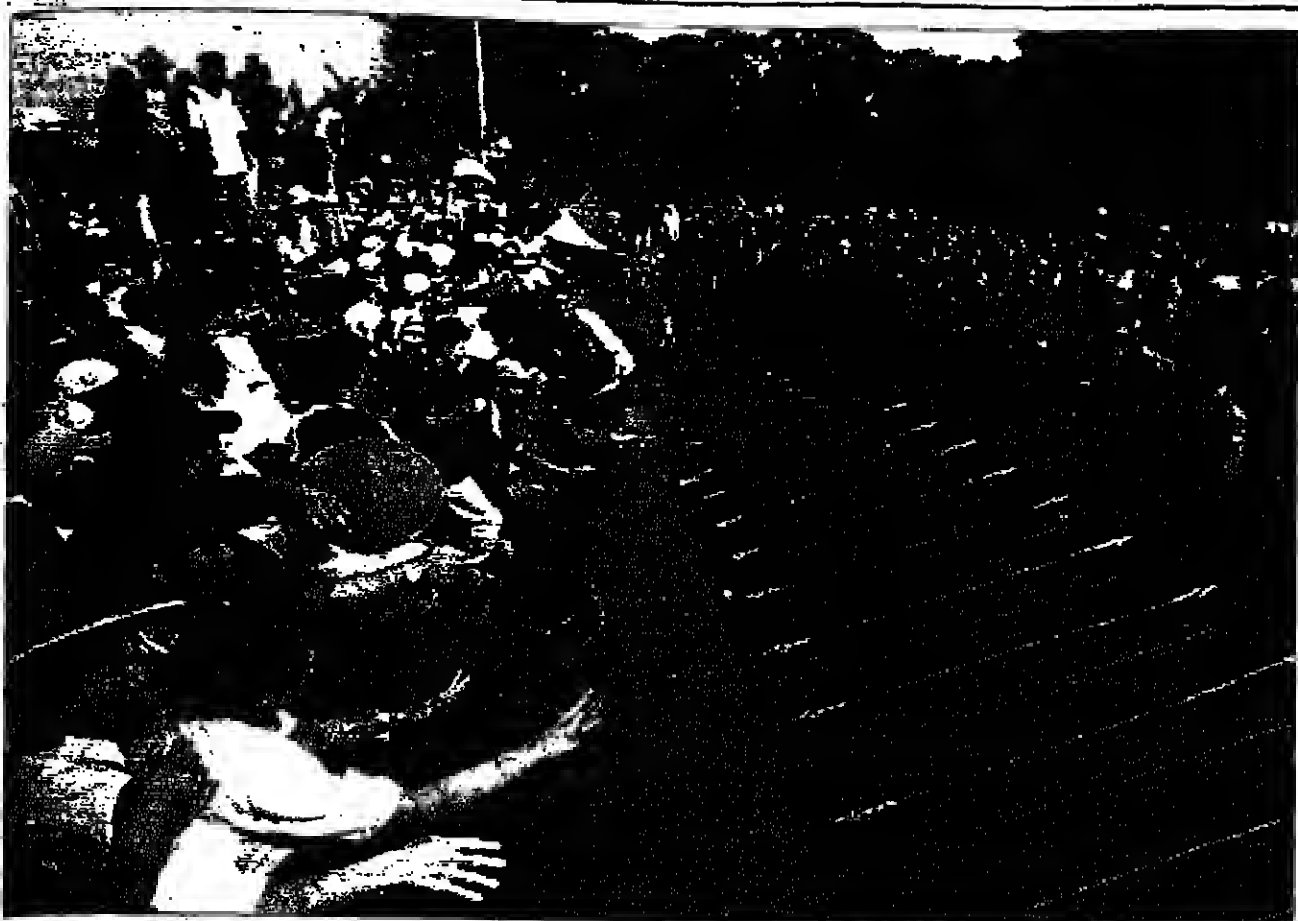
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Students push the fence surrounding Indonesia's parliament house as anti-riot policemen keep a close watch during a protest in Jakarta. The students demanded President B.J. Habibie step down in one of the largest rallies seen at legislature since former President Suharto resigned in May. The gate to the parliament grounds collapsed after being shaken by students, but the protesters did not storm the parliament building (Reuters photo)

Thousands burn shops in anti-Chinese riot in Indonesian town

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Thousands of people rampaged in a town in Central Java province Monday, burning and looting Chinese-owned shops and cars, residents and police said.

Police said nine shops were burned down and many others were damaged by mobs in Kebumen, about 350 kilometres southeast of Jakarta.

There were no reports of injuries. One man was arrested, police said.

Hundreds of people remained on the streets as night fell after dozens of police and troops tried to restore order.

Security forces blocked

roads into the town, said one resident who identified himself by the single name of Ahmad.

He said by telephone that trouble broke out after a fight between a local man and an ethnic Chinese shopkeeper.

"I saw Chinese shops burned and others damaged by mobs in Kebumen, adding that rioters also set a number of cars and motorcycles afire.

In some places, mobs piled goods out in the street and set them ablaze.

Monday's riot was the latest in a series to hit crisis-ridden Indonesia recently.

Last week, two people

were killed and 12 were injured when riots erupted in Lhokseumawe on the northern tip of Sumatra Island, an area that endured years of repression by Indonesia's military following a separatist uprising in the late 1980s.

Those riots came after a major pullout by the army, but the mobs soon turned on members of the ethnic Chinese minority.

Indonesia is enduring its worst economic crisis in 30 years and Chinese people have been made into scapegoats for skyrocketing inflation, food shortages and mass unemployment.

Violence against the

Chinese also flared in the months before former President Suharto resigned in May, ending 32 years of authoritarian rule.

In Jakarta, at least 2,000 student protesters tore down the gates outside the Parliament and threw plastic bottles at police Monday during a demonstration against Suharto's successor, President B.J. Habibie.

Hundreds of riot police blocked the demonstrators from entering the grounds. Police also closed off the main highway in front of the building, where protesters milled, dressed in brightly coloured university jackets.

British expert warns of mad cow disease in sheep

LONDON (AFP) — A "mad cow" disease expert Monday warned that the presence of the sickness in sheep could be dangerous to humans and might therefore constitute a "national emergency".

"I think there is a distinct possibility that BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) is out there in the sheep population," said Professor Geoffrey Almond.

Almond is chair of the sheep sub-committee of the government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee.

Researchers have linked the fatal bovine brain disorder to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the dangerous human equivalent of mad cow disease, which 27 beef-eating people have contracted.

Since the disease was first detected in cows, more than 170,000 cases in cattle have been recorded in Britain, which hopes to eradicate the disease by 2002.

A theory explaining the appearance of the disease in cattle is that it came about as a result of their being fed sheep meat infected with the brain disease known as scrapie.

"It could be that BSE has been in sheep for hundreds of years and does not cause a problem because it doesn't transmit from sheep to humans," Almond said on BBC Radio 4.

"On the other hand, it's sort of gone back into sheep from cows and then is behaving somehow differently from sheep scrapie, then that could pose a risk to humans," he said.

The second case would constitute "a national emergency," he said, adding, "I think politicians would have to think very hard about what the appropriate response would be."

U.N. tribunal to tighten procedures after jailed suspect's death

THE HAGUE (AP) — The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal absolved itself of blame Monday in the death of a jailed genocide suspect, but said it would tighten emergency procedures at the U.N. detention unit where others are held.

An internal inquiry into the Aug. 1 death of Milan Kovacevic, a Bosnian Serb, found he died of a ruptured aorta and that there was no evidence of negligence on the part of the tribunal, spokesman Christian Chatter said.

Kovacevic was the second Serb suspect to die in the tribunal's detention block. His death triggered angry protests in the Serb-controlled part of Bosnia and plunged relations between Serbs and the court to an all-time low.

The Yugoslav Justice Ministry accused the tribunal of providing inadequate medical treatment, and a pro-government newspaper ran a headline claiming "Only Serbs Die in The Hague."

It took prison guards 35 minutes to contact a physician after Kovacevic first complained of severe pain, and a full hour before the doctor arrived, according to the investigation led by tribunal judge Almino Rodrigues of Portugal.

Although Rodrigues conceded that "some criticism may be levelled against the medical emergency procedures," he insisted the delay was not the cause of death.

"The inquiry revealed no indication of negligence on the part of the duty doctor ... or any other person," Rodrigues concluded.

Chatter said medical staff would be given electronic pagers to make it easier to track them down. He declined to give details of other corrective measures.

The tribunal knew Kovacevic suffered from the abdominal aortic aneurysm and monitored his condition closely in the months before his death, the report said. It said his general health, worsened by a heart condition and other ailments, was so poor that corrective surgery was not an option.

The doctor who treated Kovacevic just before his death did not detect the rupture of the aneurysm and concluded he was suffering from a kidney problem instead, the report said. The doctor gave Kovacevic a painkiller and went home 75 minutes later when the pain subsided.

By the time he was called back, Kovacevic's condition

had rapidly deteriorated and he died despite frantic attempts to revive him.

His death ended the U.N. tribunal's first genocide trial.

Kovacevic, a 57-year-old former anaesthesiologist, was charged with genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for alleged atrocities committed in northwest Bosnia's Prijedor region in 1992. He pleaded innocent to all 15 charges against him and faced a possible life sentence if convicted.

Kovacevic was the second Serb suspect to die in tribunal custody. In June, Slavko Dokmanovic hanged himself in his cell while awaiting the verdict in his war crimes trial. An inquiry also cleared the tribunal of blame in that death.

Kovacevic, arrested in 1997 by NATO forces in Prijedor, was accused of overseeing a vicious campaign of arrests, rapes, torture and slayings of non-Serbs.

Prosecutors accused him of guiding the campaign of atrocities aimed at driving Muslims and Croats out of Prijedor and of establishing three infamous prison camps where hundreds of detainees were tortured and killed.

Philippines probes gruesome human organs trade

MANILA (R) — The Philippines said Monday it was probing reports that Filipinos working abroad were being killed and their organs sold for use in transplants.

An international syndicate is suspected of drugging their victims during sham medical examinations, killing them and removing their organs, the presidential palace said in a statement.

President Joseph Estrada ordered the probe after the organs of a Filipina maid, who allegedly committed suicide in Taiwan, went missing following an autopsy, spokesman Ike Gutierrez said.

"We've heard of a similar case of another Filipino worker in Europe... This is blood curdling," Gutierrez told Reuters.

The government has asked Taiwan authorities to reinvestigate the case of the maid to find out if she really took her own life or was murdered, the palace statement said.

About 6.5 million Filipinos work offshore as professionals or in menial jobs. They remit an average of \$7.0 billion annually and are important to the domestic economy.

Estrada has ordered police to track down local recruiters suspected to be members of "an

international syndicate engaged in the slaughter of overseas Filipino workers whose internal organs are sold to the highest bidder," the palace statement said.

Before leaving abroad, recruits sign papers agreeing to a medical examination after arrival. The papers are "their death certificates," the palace statement said, quoting a labour department report.

Abroad, accomplices would supposedly treat the workers as important guests, giving them good food and pleasant accommodation before the sham medical examinations, it said.

Kohl's allies reject future coalition with SPD

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Bavarian allies threw down the gauntlet Monday and said they would sever ties to his Christian Democrats if they formed a coalition with the Social Democrats after Germany's Sept. 27 election.

The arch-conservative Christian Social Union (CSU) warned Kohl's CDU they were unalterably opposed to the idea of forming a "grand coalition" with the opposition SPD after the federal election in three weeks.

"That would of course mean the end of our relationship if the CDU were to enter a coalition with the SPD," said Michael Glos, CSU parliamentary leader, in an interview with German Radio.

"There is no way that we would be part of any alliance with the SPD," said Glos, whose party is fighting hard to defend its absolute majority in its Bavarian conservative bastion in an important state election Sunday.

Kohl reacted quickly to

the comments. Speaking in Berlin, he said it was unthinkable that the CDU would split with the CSU and form a coalition with the SPD. Kohl has said he would resign before joining a grand coalition with the SPD.

"Everyone knows it is inconceivable," Kohl said. "The CDU and CSU have enjoyed a close and proven alliance."

With three weeks left before the federal election, voter surveys show Kohl's CDU and their Bavarian sister party trailing SPD challenger Gerhard Schroeder by between three and six percentage points.

The SPD is unlikely to win an absolute majority and will need a coalition partner. The Greens would be the first choice, but Schroeder has tried to win middle-of-the-road voters by flirting with the idea of a grand coalition with the CDU.

Germany was governed by such a grand coalition between 1966 and 1969. It marked the end of the CDU/CSU's 20-year hold

on the chancellery and led to SPD-led governments for 13 years.

Although the CSU and conservative members of Kohl's CDU oppose a grand coalition, moderate CDU leaders have said such an alliance may be the only way to resolve many of the country's pressing economic and social problems.

"The CDU has to understand we are not stuck together 'until death do us part,'" Glos said. "The CSU is not afraid of going into opposition. I don't believe the CDU will go off on its own."

We will govern together or go into the opposition together."

Schroeder said that he would be willing to form a coalition with the Greens or the CDU after the election. He said it wouldn't matter if the CSU joined the coalition or not.

"It doesn't matter to me if parts of Kohl's conservatives want to sulk off on their own," he said at the weekend. "The only thing that matters is that we have a stable majority."

A closely watched voter survey by the Electoral Research Group showed the CDU trimming the once-towering SPD lead to three points: 38 to 41 per cent. It was the slimmest margin since February. Schroeder had led by eight points in May.

Two other weekend polls, however, showed Schroeder widening his lead. A survey by the Emnid polling institute found Schroeder ahead by five points, 42 to 37, while another poll by the Dimap institute had Schroeder up by six points, 43 to 37.

Kohl came under renewed pressure Monday from his other coalition partners, the liberal Free Democrats.

FDP chairman Wolfgang Gerhardt said if Kohl, 68, won a fifth term he should not remain in office for the full four years, but ought to make way for a younger leader from his party.

"It's important for the FDP that the chancellor hand over the reins of power sometime during the next four years," Gerhardt said.

Divers find flight data recorder, now seek Swissair jet's fuselage

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP) — Divers working in 57-metre waters have found the flight data recorder of Swissair Flight 111 and will next try to confirm the location of fuselage sections which may hold many victims' bodies.

The retrieval of the so-called black box Sunday was the first major breakthrough for crash investigators, who are trying to determine why the MD-11 jetliner plunged into the sea off the coast of the fishing village of Peggy's Cove Wednesday night, killing all 229 people on board.

The flight data recorder was flown to a laboratory in Ottawa where it will be examined Monday. If it's in good condition, it would provide more than 100 types of technical data that could help explain why the plane's cockpit filled with smoke and why the pilots' emergency conversation with traffic controllers was cut off six minutes before the crash.

Divers will continue searching for the second black box — the cockpit voice recorder that would reveal other noises in the cockpit in addition to the already available conversation with controllers.

They also will try to confirm that three large pieces of wreckage near the flight data recorder are sections

of the plane's fuselage.

"Some of them are squashed. It's in very poor shape, but it is visible and it looks like an aircraft fuselage," said Captain Phil Webster, a navy spokesman.

Though officials have declined to give an updated figure of how many bodies have been recovered, they have indicated that most remain in the sea. Recovery of the fuselage could also lead to recovery of many more bodies, officials said.

A U.S. Navy rescue and salvage ship embarked Sunday from Philadelphia to assist in the possible recovery of large aircraft parts.

The USS Grapple, which assisted in the deep-sea investigation of the TWA Flight 800 crash in 1996, carries equipment capable of lifting 300 tonnes, plus more than 30 divers. It is expected to reach Nova Scotia Wednesday.

The Swissair plane, about an hour into its flight from New York's Kennedy International Airport to Geneva, crashed 16 minutes after the pilots reported smoke in the cockpit and decided to attempt an emergency landing. The plane started towards the Halifax airport, but made two sharp turns as it tried to descend and dump fuel.

In Zurich, Switzerland, Swissair officials said they

had reconstructed the final phase of the flight, based on information from Canadian investigators. They said the plane couldn't have made a direct approach to Halifax from where it made the first distress call because it was flying too high and was too heavy with 30 tonnes of fuel meant for the Europe crossing.

The call was made 112 kilometres out of Halifax, but the pilots would have needed 208 kilometres to make a direct landing, Swissair's chief pilot, Rainer Hiltbrand, said. However, he said attempting to land in Halifax was still better than trying for Boston, which the pilots initially suggested to controllers.

Alan Wolk, a U.S. pilot and aviation lawyer, said in a statement Sunday that Flight 111's pilot, Urs Zimmermann, showed an initial lack of urgency and should have begun an emergency descent sooner.

"The MD-11 could have been landed overweight without difficulty," Wolk said. "We have learned from aircraft fires historically that the only procedure that has a prayer of avoiding an accident is the quickest possible descent and landing."

At a military air base outside Halifax, pathologists continued the grim and

technically difficult task of trying to identify the badly fragmented human remains that have been retrieved from the crash site thus far.

Dr. John Butt, Nova Scotia's chief medical examiner, said he has been groping for gentle ways to convey to the victims' families that few of them will take possession of mostly intact bodies.

But also said he had been seeking advice from the medical officials who handled body identification after the crash of TWA Flight 800 off the south shore of New York's Long Island. Asked to compare the state of the bodies in the two crashes, Butt replied: "This is much more difficult."

More than 300 relatives of Flight 111's victims have flown to Nova Scotia.

Memorials were held through the weekend at Peggy's Cove and in nearby Halifax.

At St. John's Anglican Church in Peggy's Cove, a haggard-looking Rev. Richard Walsh began his regular Sunday service by noting "this has been a terrible week."

In his sermon, Walsh told about 25 parishioners that the tiny village shares in the grief of the families. "Those people became spiritually part of our community. We won't forget them."

Karachi gunmen kill four including prosecutor in Iranian murder case

KARACHI (AFP) — A Pakistani prosecutor investigating the killing of two Iranian engineers by suspected Sunni extremists was killed in an ambush while three other people died in violence-plagued Karachi Monday, police said.

The killing of a state attorney triggered protest by the lawyers community.

The Karachi Bar Association condemned the incident and demanded an early arrest of the killers.

Police said Khan's car was intercepted by attackers who opened fire. Police said he was probably chased and killed after he dropped his children at a school in the area. He was rushed to a private hospital but died soon after. Khan was on his way to the special court to attend a hearing in the murder case of two Iranian engineers. The two construction engineers,

Ali Mohammad Habib Zadeh, 36, and Murtaza Adib Zadeh, 48, were killed by unknown assailants while supervising work on a bridge in the seaside Clifton area on Feb. 21.

Police have arrested six activists from a Sunni Muslim extremist group, the Sipaha-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), for their alleged involvement in the slayings. The group is at loggerheads with a rival Shiite minority extremist faction. The rivalry has claimed hundreds of lives in sectarian clashes since January last year. A senior police official said he suspected the involvement of a sectarian group in the murder of Sardar Khan, and described the action as terrorism.

Earlier another lawyer, Hasnain Abbasi, who was also an office bearer of the Shiite political party, was shot dead in a busy commercial district here last week.

At least 50 people have been killed over the past 10 days amid political unrest sparked after an influential ethnic party, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), deserted the ruling coalition in southern Sindh province of which Karachi is the capital.

Karachi has a history of political, ethnic and religious violence that has claimed more than 3,000 lives during the past three years.

Guilty verdict for teacher who turned to genocide

By Matthew Bigg
Reuters

THE CAREER of a Rwandan former mayor convicted last week of genocide by the U.N. tribunal pivots on a single day at the height of the killings.

Jean Paul Akayesu, the mayor of Taba commune in central Rwanda, was convicted last Tuesday of nine counts of genocide, incitement to genocide, crimes against humanity, violations of the Geneva Conventions, rape and sexual violence. He was acquitted on six counts. His case turns on a single day when on April 18, 1994, when he attended a meeting in the provincial capital, Gitarama, at which then Prime Minister Jean Kambanda urged Hutu communal leaders to put aside their political differences and work together against a common enemy.

Witnesses at Akayesu's trial — the first held by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda — told the court Kambanda's words were a code, inciting communal leaders to take up the work of killing Tutsis in full swing in the capital and in other parts of the country.

The speech had a profound effect on Akayesu.

"This case was a case of betrayal by Akayesu of his people," lead prosecutor Pierre Prosper of the United States told Reuters.

"Before 1994 most people said he was a decent guy... but in mid-April 1994 he turned and became a predator. We received a lot of testimony of citizens of Taba who went to him after massacres or losing all their family and he wasn't there for them," Prosper said.

Akayesu, born in Taba in 1953, worked as a teacher and school inspector prior to his appointment as mayor. As such he was little more than a minor civil servant in Rwanda's tightly-administered society, a trusted and respected leader across both sides of the ethnic divide in Taba despite his other position as local boss of the Democratic Republican Movement (MDR) party.

His authority enabled him to provide a bulwark against killings in Taba, particularly because the Interahamwe militiamen who were forcing the pace of massacres of Tutsis were working specifically for the former ruling party of slain president Juvenal Habyarimana.

Two people — one Tutsi and one Interahamwe — died in Taba on the night of April 18 and when Akayesu returned home he found two groups of Hutus both for and against the idea of starting massacres in the commune, witnesses told the court.

It was the critical moment at which Akayesu had the opportunity to exert his influence to maximum effect, Prosper said.

"At that moment Akayesu repeats Kambanda's speech. He made a cold and calculated decision to become a participant in the overall genocide. He viewed his job as getting it off the ground in Taba and after that day he was very active," Prosper said.

Akayesu, who took the stand in his trial that started in January 1997, denied charges of involvement. His defence counsel, Nicolas Tiangaye of the Central African Republic, argued Akayesu risked his life to save a few Tutsis in Taba, but his authority as mayor had been completely undermined by the intervention of the Hutu militiamen.

In all more than 2,000 people died in Taba, a tiny fraction of the 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus who were killed during the genocide. But the pattern of killings in Taba was in some ways representative. Witnesses told the court Akayesu issued orders to kill specific political opponents.

Many murders — including an initial eight clubbed to death — were killed in an around the communal office, their bodies dumped in mass graves. Tutsis who sought refuge in Taba commune — like Tutsis throughout the country who sought refuge at churches, schools and other symbols of state authority — found that their place of sanctuary became a slaughterhouse.

Around 300 women went to the Taba commune offices. Many were raped before they were killed, according to prosecution evidence.

In June 1994 Akayesu fled Taba before the advancing Rwandan Patriotic Front army, which later took power.

He entered the former Zaire via the western town of Kihuye after being given a new passport — a detail the prosecution argued suggested he remained on good terms with the Hutu interim government until the end.

From Zaire he went to Zambia where he was arrested in October 1995 on the advice of the Rwandan ambassador in South Africa.

During his trial Akayesu — a tall imposing man, remained a commanding presence, studying books in court on international law — and intimidating witnesses who had been peasants in his commune.

"He is smart," Prosper said. "Under cross-examination he wove the facts around the evidence not only to answer but also to preempt further questions."

"He is a brilliant, confident, not to say arrogant man and he thought he could talk his way out of it," Prosper said.

Judeh rejects Syrian allegations of 'military alliance' with Turkey

(Continued from page 1)

If there are security and military arrangements between Turkey and Israel then this is their business.

Jordanian-Syrian tensions have ebbed and flowed for decades due to ideological rivalries, but have soured since Jordan's signing of its 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Syria has since stepped up its media campaign against Jordan. While the Jordanian media has not retaliated, officials in Amman have maintained that Damascus was also negotiating with Israel with the eventual aim of securing its own peace deal.

Moreover, Jordan has long complained that Syria meddles in the internal affairs of the Kingdom and tacitly funds groups that destabilise the country, while Damascus accuses Amman of breaking away from the regional Arab order and working against the interests of Arab nationalism and unity.

Close military cooperation between Jordan and Turkey has done little to tone down Syria's accusations that Amman, Ankara, and Tel Aviv are forging an alliance that aims to strategically isolate it.

But Khatib, hinting at neighbouring countries' apprehension and sensitivities towards Jordan's foreign policies, said dialogue is the key to clarifying any misunderstanding between the Kingdom and any other state in the region.

On his recent visit to South Africa where he attended the Non-Aligned Movement summit, Khatib told members of the press the conference condemned terrorism in all its forms, and suggested holding an international summit to combat terrorism.

Russian Duma votes against Chernomyrdin

(Continued from page 1)

listened to opposition calls for an alternative candidate for prime minister.

"The situation in the country is the result of the course carried out by Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Chernomyrdin in the past few years," he said before the vote. "We are on the verge of catastrophe and collapse."

Yeltsin defended Chernomyrdin's candidacy and said he wouldn't nominate anyone else. Chernomyrdin held the post of premier for five years before being dismissed in March.

If the Duma rejects the president's candidate on the third vote, then the constitution calls for the president to dissolve the Duma and call new elections within three months.

Yeltsin would effectively rule by decree during the interim.

Chernomyrdin, speaking on national television Sunday, warned that further delay in forming a new government would exacerbate the nation's economic woes to such a degree that extreme nationalist forces might try to take advantage of the turmoil and seize power.

"They will not spare anyone. That would be a tragedy and catastrophe for Russia," Chernomyrdin said.

He also stressed that Russia still wants aid and cooperation from the West to help ease the economic crisis, which has seen the ruble collapse and prices soar.

Meanwhile, the Russian Central Bank cancelled hard currency trading on Monday as traders wanted only to buy dollars, not to sell them. However, currency exchange booths on the streets remained open.

At the start of Monday's trading, the ruble was quoted at 20 to the U.S. dollar, down from 17 to the dollar on Friday. Deals which are to take effect on Tuesday pegged the rate as low as 30 rubles a dollar.

The ruble was trading at just over six to the dollar when the crisis erupted less than a month ago.

Organised intimidation against foreign funding 'postpones' human rights seminar

(Continued from page 1)

The ins and outs of the most recent debacle is of little concern to participants who spent weeks preparing papers for the seminar, which was to be held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the declaration of human rights.

"The question is who should be allowed to dictate to everyone else what civic activities other people will engage in," says human rights activist Asma Khader, who had planned a lecture on the identification of the State of Jordanian Society Through Signed Agreements and its Commitments to Signed Documents, Exemptions or Reservations on Signed Agreements. "The question is not who funds activities, but what activities are being funded."

Today's agenda included lectures from Fahmi Howaida, an Egyptian authority on Islam who planned to discuss the differences between the Islamic declaration of human rights and the international declaration; Sahri Rubeibat, a sociologist from Philadelphia University who was to lecture on the performance of the juridical systems and police training in human rights; and researcher Hani Hourani, who planned to discuss the role of social institutions in protecting human rights in Arab countries.

Khader says it is not beyond doubt that some foreign funding does support specific priorities and agendas, however, she said for organisations like JUND, foreign support is crucial.

"Money, especially right now, is crucial," she says. "Show me the local money, and I'm sure we'll take it."

Mehyar says JUND's 100 members pay around JD11 in annual dues, hardly enough to fund half of today's scheduled seminar that included participants from abroad.

Instead, Mehyar says the society relies on contributions from civic-minded citizens to support their activities. As the economic situation deteriorates, reliance on foreign money obviously increases.

"I want to make clear, however, that at no time did the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, which has supported us before, ever dictate the terms of how the money was spent or our agenda."

Khader blasted activists, who claim they are working in the name of safeguarding Jordanian democracy.

"The irony is that [activists] who work in the name of democracy play into the hands of the government, which is happy because the activists themselves prevent the independent and civil society from acting and growing."

"They can't target the real enemies, so they search for the weakest link in the chain and play on those feelings," she said. "And this is going to get worse, especially if our institutions continue their misguided way of dealing with the problem."

Opposition deputies rally to petition review of new press law

(Continued from page 1)

Journalists complained that they had no idea about where the remaining 32 deputies stood on the issue of the press law.

Deputy Mahmoud Kharabshah (Balqa), who headed the Lower House National Guidance Committee, which made most of the amendments to the government-sponsored draft, said some deputies had been coordinating with members of the press on how to best confront the law. The Jordan Press Association today is expected to host a press conference and endorse the idea of a Lower House petition.

Press reports yesterday said some deputies planned to tie their confidence votes to the issue of the press law, but opposition Deputy Mohammad Oran (Tafilah) said this was not an organised decision at this point.

"It is really too soon to make a decision about that, and this will probably depend on our meetings with Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh," said Oran.

"The issue of the press law will be one of the top priorities of our agenda when we meet him. We are, however, committed to confronting this law in one way or another."

Opposition deputies are expected to meet Tarawneh tonight following a regular Cabinet session.

Environment

Disease and fear grip Bangladesh's flood victims

By Nadeem Qadir
Agence France Presse

BDANGLADESH'S WORST floods have not only left hundreds dead, but survivors have been plagued by diseases and fear for more than two months, and the situation is worsening as rivers swell.

"I have a torch and a stick to ensure safe journey back home at night because I use a rickshaw, then a boat and then walk through waist-deep dirty water," said Mohammad Faiz, a resident of one of the worst-hit areas.

Many have fallen into the dirty water when small boats overturned or rickshaw drivers tripped in submerged pot holes or drains.

Diarrhoea, other water-borne diseases and sores have become rampant.

More than two-thirds of Bangladesh is now under water. More than 700 people have died, 116 of them from diarrhoea out of more than 152,000 infected, and a quarter of the 124 million population has been severely hit by the floods.

Diarrhoea kills by dehydration and is fatal unless treated quickly.

Dhaka's International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh said more than three patients were reporting ill every minute.

"At normal times a maximum of 100 or so patients reported to the centre, but now the number has gone up to almost 1,000 per day," one doctor said.

A team from the Army Medical Corps has set up an emergency adjunct at the centre to help cope with the situation. Patients are given a solution of salt and sugar or a bottle of "rice saline."

They have also set up water treatment plants.

The United Nations said drinking water was in short supply, while residents fear that with pipes under water for weeks, water might have been contaminated.

Other diseases reported are dysentery, intestinal worms, skin infection, eye and ear infection, malaria and fever.

State Minister for Health M. Amanullah told the Daily Star newspaper the situation was "worse this year compared to the previous ones."

Doctors said 116 mobile teams were deployed and the worst was yet to come when the water receded.

Monir Hossain, a former rickshaw-puller, said his foot had skin sores he developed after "horrible itching" for days.

In cramped flood shelters near Dhaka, new arrivals were reported Sunday as victims who had managed to stay on rooftops were forced from their homes by rising water. Health workers fear the situation would deteriorate.

The United Nations had described the condition in the shelters as "distressingly cramped and unhygienic."

A health official said leaching powder was being distributed to disinfect shelters.

"Hey, boat, Hey, boat," is the call heard during peak hours in the flooded areas of Dhaka.

There are more "boat stops" than bus stops or taxi stands in this city of nine million people, with more than two-thirds of it swamped by flood water. Regular "boat jams" delay trips by up to 30 minutes.

"It looks like Venice," one Western journalist said.

Men and women venture out fearing drowning or other accidents in black, foul-smelling flood water mixed with sewer overflow. Snake bites are another risk.

A dozen people have died by electrocution in the past days, with live wires submerged in waters.

The floods in the Ganges river are worsening amid heavy downpours upstream. The deluge is set to last until the end of September.

Bridge could change Nile island lifestyle

By Matthew Green
Reuters

FOR CENTURIES Tuti islanders have lived a cloistered life, cut off from Sudan's capital Khartoum by the treacherous waters of the Nile.

Now residents say a planned bridge to the city, approved by a government study but not yet financed, could bring them the best and worst of the 21st century.

"We are all one family, so when people come from outside, everything will change," said Abdel Monem, a lifelong resident of the 1,000 hectare island.

Many islanders share his fear that the last ferry to cross from Khartoum will mark the end of an age-old way of life.

Tuti is just a few minutes' ferry ride from the high-rise blocks and fumes of the city, but still feels like a village.

Stepping ashore is to step back in time. Donkey carts ply sandy tracks between crumbling houses. Men clad in white robes and turbans amble home from midday prayers at the mosque in the middle of the island. There are just 25 cars for 30,000 people.

The bridge could change all that.

"Tutians have deeply-seated roots," said Abdullahi Zaki, a doctor from the island. "Historically we are the first inhabitants of the Khartoum area." As the capital's population increases and land gets scarcer, the identity of the original settlers is disputed.

But there is no doubt that Tutians have been around a long time. Many trace their family trees to a single founding clan they say arrived from northern Sudan six centuries ago.

Nowadays the island's winding lanes are filled with the faces of people from all over Sudan, many with traditional scarves that distinguish them from Tuti's older inhabitants.

Despite their diversity, islanders show a strong sense of kinship. Some fear the bridge will destroy their community's bonds by bringing an influx of outsiders.

"People co-operate with each other. If your neighbour has no food, you give it to him," says retired engineer Qurashi Abbas.

"If you make a bridge, everyone will think of himself." Most people in Khartoum are struggling to survive in a harsh economic climate. Across the clay-coloured river in Tuti, a slower rhythm of life has been handed down intact for centuries.

Men meet to recite Koranic verses in the same courtyards on the same dates as their great-grandfathers did. Hundreds of relations gathering for weddings, men and women feasting apart.

"Now there are poor people coming. The bridge will bring rich people," said Monem.

Until now the Nile has protected Tuti from the pressure of Khartoum's population, estimated at about four million.

Islanders believe the bridge will push up land prices and drive out poorer Tutians to be replaced by outsiders.

Orchards and gardens that provide a haven from Khartoum's heat would be torn up for housing, even though 1988 floods showed the danger to buildings near the shore.

"Forty years ago this was a green area," said ex-army officer Hussein el-Fadul. "I think houses will go up to the Nile." For all the talk of disruption, not all Tuti's inhabitants oppose the bridge, which would cut the cost of goods from the capital and bring a new piped water supply.

Some say it could protect the island by making it easier to import materials for building flood defences against the Nile.

Others look forward to an end to their isolation. Students complain of time wasted commuting to schools in Khartoum. "If you are ill at night, you cannot get to a hospital," said Abbas.

At sunset the muezzin calls and Tutians kneel as one to pray. In the sudden silence, city traffic is faintly audible across the water and Khartoum's Hilton Hotel looms above a fringe of palm trees. Already a huge Coca-Cola hoarding dominates Tuti's ferry landing.

For the moment, the bridge remains ink on paper. Sudan's strained relations with donors and its chronic economic crisis may keep it that way and leave Tuti to its own devices.

"Everything is ready for the bridge, specifications, drawings," said Abbas. "We just need \$2 million." Khartoum is cluttered with the concrete skeletons of unfinished buildings. The silence on the construction sites suggests money for the bridge may be a long time coming.



Greenspan opens door to U.S. interest rate cut

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) no longer views inflation as the primary threat to the U.S. economy and may cut key interest rates should global financial turmoil intensify and do serious damage to the world's top economy.

That, in a nutshell, was Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's message in his first major address since the chaos in global financial markets has intensified in recent weeks, prompting mounting worries over the stability of the entire world economy.

Financial markets in the United States and elsewhere had long been urging the reclusive Fed chairman to give them some indication of what he intends to do in the face of what many fear is turning into a crisis of unprecedented proportions.

After Greenspan caused widespread annoyance among Fed watchers for failing to address the issue a

week ago at a high-level Fed symposium in Wyoming, he finally chose an academic conference at the University of California, Berkeley, to deliver his eagerly awaited message.

Greenspan then headed to a meeting between U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Japan's Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on the question of what Japan should do to restore its economy and help its battered Asian neighbours recover from a deep slump.

Although he did not directly comment on the bank's interest rate policy, Greenspan said this was a time for caution.

"It is just not credible that the United States can remain an oasis of prosperity unaffected by a world that is experiencing greatly increased stress," he warned.

Greenspan suggested the central bank currently viewed the risks to the U.S.

economy as balanced — confirming market speculation that the Fed has dropped its inclination, or "bias," to raise rather than cut rates or leave them unchanged — but said it would have to "consider carefully" developments in the world economy in coming weeks and months.

U.S. market interest rates, determined by the forces of supply and demand in the world's highly-liquid bond markets, are hovering near historic lows as the crisis that once started as a purely regional upheaval in Asia has gathered speed, causing investors to seek shelter in U.S. government paper.

But the Fed has kept official interest rates — primarily the overnight federal funds bank lending rate which it targets as its main policy tool since it determines borrowing costs throughout the economy — steady ever since March 1997, afraid that strong demand at home may cause inflation to rise.

The Fed's rate setting council next meets to debate the future course of monetary policy on Sept. 29. A rate cut would help to reassure investors everywhere that the world's most powerful central bank stands ready to help avert disaster.

It would help to make U.S. assets relatively less attractive than those of other countries, thus stemming the hectic flight of capital from many of the world's emerging markets and injecting a dose of stability into the global financial system.

A monetary easing could also prevent consumers at home from shutting tight their wallets as a result of the loss in wealth caused by sharp drop in stock prices over the last two weeks.

Greenspan has long worried that over-optimistic investors may drive up stock prices to unsustainable levels. He now appears to fear that a sharp fall in equity values could deal a

painful blow to the still-booming U.S. economy.

"As dislocations abroad mount, feeding back on our financial markets, restraint is likely to intensify," he cautioned. But Greenspan also included a warning to investors not to lose their heads, noting that "periods of euphoria or distress tend to feed on themselves."

A U.S. rate cut now aimed at fending off an economic collapse would not be the first time the Fed has eased its monetary reins in response to turmoil in financial markets.

The Fed slashed interest rates after the stock market crash in October 1987 to inject liquidity into the system, but was quickly forced to raise them again as inflation threatened to get out of hand. The subsequent tightening was widely blamed for having helped to cause the 1990-91 recession in the United States.

The last time key U.S. rates were cut was in January 1996.

Russian central bank chief resigns as rouble hurtles downwards

MOSCOW (AFP) — Embattled central bank chief Sergei Dubinin became the latest victim of the Russian financial crisis Monday, tendering his resignation even as the rouble continued its headlong slide into oblivion.

Blasting parliament and Acting Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin for hampering his efforts to save the collapsing Russian economy, Dubinin sent a letter to President Boris Yeltsin offering to resign.

The central bank has faced deafening criticism for unhooking the rouble from the dollar and then admitting he could not defend the Russian currency with central bank reserves.

The result has been an unprecedented rouble nosedive, the currency hurtling down some 20 per cent in interbank deals to an afternoon spread of 21-21.5 to the dollar while the central bank chose to set its official rate at 18.9. Fixing the rouble to the dollar proved impossible again as few greenbacks were on offer.

"Commercial banks are not prepared to work normally on the market, but banks and the population need a fixing rate," central bank official Andrei Cherepanov was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying.

The central bank later set its official rate at 18.9 to the dollar.

The rouble's woe has dragged stocks to all-time lows and equities gained little respite Monday, ending another thin day's trading flat.

Markets found little to cheer about as Chernomyrdin reiterated his economic priorities to parliament shortly before being rejected in a second vote on his candidacy for prime minister.

"It is clear that (the situation) will not get better in two days or two months. But we must keep things from getting even worse," Chernomyrdin said, detailing for a strong industrial policy, support for exporters, tax reform and controlled ruble printing as his panacea for Russia's serious economic ailment.

Dubinin's fall from grace was the second time he has lost his job over a rouble fiasco. The respected academic and former banker was fired from the finance ministry after the rouble lost more than 20 per cent on Oct. 11, 1994.

In his letter of resignation on Monday, Dubinin said he could no longer work under circumstances in which both the Russian parliament and acting prime minister were openly calling for his head.

But he flatly blamed the opposition-led State Duma lower house parliament for dragging its feet on pivotal legislation he wanted passed

to help Russia and its ailing banking system through the acute financial misery.

"Under my leadership, the central bank did not print worthless money," Dubinin wrote to Yeltsin in a resignation letter cited by ITAR-TASS.

"However, monetary policies cannot forever compensate for weaknesses in tax collection and the management of national debt, both internal and external," Dubinin wrote.

It was Dubinin's decision, taken in conjunction with then Premier Sergei Kiriyenko, to let go of the rouble on Aug. 17 after months of insisting that the currency was safe. Kiriyenko was sacrificed a week later, but Dubinin has hitherto scoffed at repeated calls for his ouster.

Analysts said that his resignation, which if accepted would leave the country floundering in economic chaos with neither a central bank chief nor a confirmed prime minister, would merely add insult to injury to Russia's wretched financial markets.

"He presided when the rouble was steady," said Al Breach, economist with the Russia-European Centre for Economic Policy. "Basically on that he was pretty decent."

World economy big shots in disarray over how to tackle crises

CERNOBBIO, Italy (AFP) — The threat of contamination from the economic crises in Asia and Russia took centre stage at a weekend get-together in Italy by some of the world's market movers and shakers — but consensus on what to do about it was far from in evidence.

The fact that dozens of presidents of multinationals, central bank directors, five European Union (EU) commissioners and a plethora of Asian, European and U.S. economists found the time to address the worrying developments in a luxury lakeside villa here showed they agreed the problem was there, and looming large.

The proffered solutions, given in comments away from the closed-door affair, showed a disturbing disarray, however.

The bosses — possibly keeping one eye on their stock prices — each said their group was not affected by Asia's sudden loss of wealth or Russia's downward spiral. The head of IBM's Europe operations, Lucio Stanca, said: "The countries hit by the crises today aren't strategically important."

Nevertheless, they said

there was a lot of nail-biting going on over the risk that industrialised countries might suddenly find their economies shedding speed. Fiat President Gianni Agnelli even spoke of a "slight recession" — but did add that definitions of that term differed.

The solution, many appeared to be saying, was to get Europe and the United States to cut interest rates to whip up activity, thus countering the malaise that started in South East Asia a year ago.

China's deputy science minister, Deng Nan, warned the richer countries were not protected from a downturn in global demand and urged them to be "more active."

The central bank directors were said to have Deng's warning — echoed by others — on board.

An economist at the U.S. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Rudi Dornbusch, said Europe should make the first rate-cutting move, and not wait for the U.S. Federal Reserve.

But Goldman-Sachs chief economist Gavin Davies felt that would be a premature move for Europe, as 11 EU countries were only four months away from introducing a single currency.

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NGS	ESP
US Dollar	1.7245	0.5895	1.4100	131.75	1.5214	1702.15	1.9480	5.7786	
DE Mark	0.5789	-	0.3471	0.8176	76.39	0.8816	987.51	1.1287	3.3333
GB Sterling	1.6680	2.8725	-	2.3478	219.86	2.6377	2838.80	3.2415	8.8273
CH Franc	0.7092	122.23	0.4254	-	93.43	1.0782	1207.37	137.98	4.0075
JP Yen	0.0076	1.3078	0.4545	1.0694	-	1.1539	12.91	147.54	4.3248
CA Dollar	0.6573	1.2916	0.4225	1.0555	1.15	-	1270.80	1.4551	4.3285
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0119	0.3517	0.0828	1283.65	0.8928	-	11.42	3.3928
NL Guilder	0.6141	88.57	0.3077	72.43	67.65	0.7812	574.15	-	2.9884
FR Franc	0.1731	0.2380	0.1035	24.3574	22.75	0.2528	33.53	33.5300	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	1.4104	0.7090	3.7505	0.3770	3.6400	0.3041	3.6727	1517.00	3.3881
Jordan Dinar	0.2688	-	5.2898	0.5317	5.1340	0.4289	5.1801	2139.53	4.7927
Saudi Riyal	0.2688	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0011	0.98	404.48	0.9060
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8808	9.9491	-	9.65	0.8067	9.74	4024.19	9.0141
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	-	0.0835	1.01	416.78	0.9338	
Kuwait Dinar	3.2884	2.3315	12.3331	1.2395	11.97	-	12.08	4988.49	0.9338
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	0.1028	0.9911	0.0828	-	413.05	0.9282
Lebanese/1000	0.58	0.4674	2.4723	0.2485	2.3995	0.2005	2.4210	-	2.2400
Egyptian	0.2943	0.2085	1.1037	0.1109	1.0712	0.0895	1.0808	446.43	-

Energy									
Oil	Last	Low	High	Open	Close	Settle	Settle	Settle	Settle
Brent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W. Texas	14.55	14.57	14.57	14.55	14.55	14.55	14.55	14.55	14.55
Bonny	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dubai	12.69	12.37	12.37	12.69	12.69	12.69	12.69	12.69	12.69
UL Gas	131.00	131.00	131.00	131.00	131.00	131.00	131.00	131.00	131.00

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	NGS	ESP	EGP
SA Riyal	0.2688	0.4802	0.1598	0.37622	35.1556				
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4699	0.16319	0.39419	35.9002				
KW Dinar	3.2884	5.6757	1.97083	4.54037	433.561				
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.57875	1.58983	3.74281	349.773				
CY Pound	1.9612	3.3903	1.174	2.7633	258.283				

Metal Prices									
Metal	Bid	Offer	Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	Month	Year	
Gold (oz's)	288.2	288.7	USD	5.6280	5.6938	5.5352	5.4688		
Silver (oz's)	5.03	5.06	GBP	7.5703	7.5625	7.5000	7.3047		
Platinum (oz's)	367	368	JPY	0.6250	0.6133	0.5977	0.6172		
AL (3 Months)	1411	1413	DEM	3.4688	3.5000	3.5703	3.6250		
CU (3 Months)	1670	1675	FRF	1.6133	1.6841	1.7266	1.7369		
Zinc (3 Months)	1047	1050	CHF	3.5000	3.5449	3.5977	3.6582		
Lead (3 Months)	539	542	ITL	5.2410	5.0880	4.8010			
Ni (3 Months)	4320	4325							

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls		
New York	DOW JONES	7840.28	-41.87	-0.55	7760.75	7495.81	7582.22		
New York	S&P 500	973.89	-8.37	-0.85	991.41	956.61	982.26		
London	FT-SE 100	5331	184	3.17	5332.5	5204.5	5167		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	14790.06	747.15	5.32	14790.1	13912.7	14042.9		
Paris	CAC 40	3695.35	2.11	0.06	3760.36	3663.93	3683.24		
Frankfurt	DAX	4923.37	103.12	2.14	5000.57	4875.81	4820.25		

Mahathir is Malaysia's new finance minister

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad Monday tightened his grip on the economy by naming himself finance minister and appointing a key aide as central bank governor.

"The prime minister is in complete control now. Economic policy in the future will be down to one man. Only time will tell if his policies are the correct ones," the chief economist at a foreign bank in Singapore said by phone.

Mahathir's first move came with the announce-

ment that Economic Planning Unit director-general Ali Abul Hassan Sulaiman had been appointed governor of the central bank, Bank Negara.

Ali Abul Hassan succeeds Ahmad Mohamed Don who resigned as governor last month ahead of the imposition of capital controls, which he and former Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim opposed.

Ali Abul Hassan told national news agency Bernama in an interview that Bank Negara has to be more business-friendly and implement policies drawn up by the National Economic Action Council (NEAC).

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

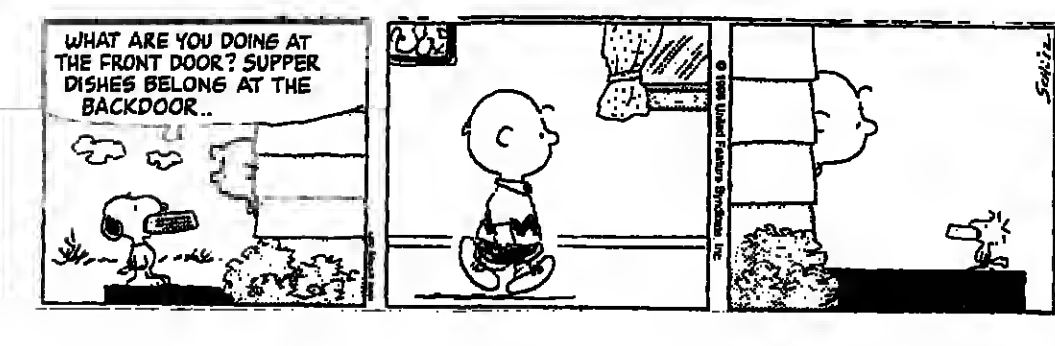
ACROSS

- Coffee without stimulant, casually
- Madison's state, abbr.
- Runs
- Bikini, e.g.
- Personal prefix
- Vicinity
- Flat
- U-turn from WSW
- Supernatural beings
- Self-evident truths
- Org. founded in 1858
- Hot poker pair
- Sporty Toyotas
- Political coalition
- Exist
- Urges to action
- Tight closure
- Dilatatory
- Sharp looking
- Functions
- Pack tight
- Rod of tennis
- Moray
- RR stops
- Imposers
- Compare
- Word with stretch or run
- Suppose that
- Aromatic seasoning
- Is down with
- Natural
- Acronym of a restaurant
- Chain
- Move like the Blob
- Ill-fated "South Park" kid
- Author Grey
- Landowner's paper
- English county

DOWN

- Knight's lady
- English boys' school
- Small bay
- Ginger
- Old Glory holder
- Writer Oscar
- Girl of the house
- Soft drink since 1886
- Singer Joplin
- Nabisco cookie
- Pathogen
- Pronouns
- Relatives of raspberries
- Corporate honcho
- Sugar source
- Cause anxiety
- Umbrage
- Sales pitch
- Greek letter
- Animated
- Wanderer
- Water pichers
- Guitar holder
- Tent peg
- Tornado or flood, e.g.
- Beach-party meal
- Front of the calf
- Stronghold
- R.E.M.'s singer
- Out trees
- Kid (genius)
- Sarcastic laughter
- Bard's river
- Vague state of mind
- Coop residents
- British princess
- Hades river
- Cavlar
- Brown with a band

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KUFLE

DEUXE

MIOGES

NOYCOT

Answer here: WITH

Yesterday's Jumbles: USURP LUCID FERVIO KNIGHT

Answer: What he wanted to do at the bowling tournament — "STRIKE" IT RICH

RS
ation

7/09/98 18:26

MLG	FRP
2.15	1.9450
7.61	1.1287
5.80	3.2416
7.37	137.96
1.91	147.64
0.80	1.4551
4.15	11.42
1.63	33.6300

ED LBP EGP

6727	1517.00	3.3891
1801	2139.63	4.7827
1.98	404.48	0.9060
3.74	4024.19	9.0141
1.01	416.76	0.9335
2.08	4988.49	0.9335
4.13	413.05	0.9335
4210		2.2409
0.080	448.43	

ies

GBP	CHF	JPY
1.1808	0.37622	36.1558
1.6319	0.38419	35.9002
70.063	4.64037	433.601
58.983	3.74251	348.772
1.174	2.7633	258.20

or Fixing

3-M	6-M	1-Y
5.5938	5.5382	5.4998
7.5825	7.5000	7.3001
0.6133	0.5977	0.5872
3.6000	3.5703	3.5700
1.6841	1.7265	1.7065
3.5448	3.5977	3.5962
5.0680	4.6010	

High Low Pch

7780.75	7495.81	78822
991.41	956.51	98226
8332.8	8204.5	517
14780.1	13912.7	10424
3760.36	3663.93	38534
8000.57	4576.81	42232

Gross Rates

Index	Buy	Sell
Dollar	0.708	0.710
Mark	1.1837	1.186
Franc	0.4101	0.412
Yen	0.4993	0.501
Yen	0.5336	0.535
Builder	0.3834	0.385
Libra	0.4154	0.417

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

ng to lose weight,
gained a pound
so many bugs!

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD
by Henry A. Morris and Mike Morris

We'd better
out of the
panes

A SCIENTIST WHO
STUDIES IDEAS
DOES THIS

Now change the words
from the sentence above
to make a new sentence
using the same words.

WITH THE

JAP LUCID FEB 2
he wanted to go to the
namer - STOP

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Widening of sales tax base expected to push up prices of popular public food and any services

BUSINESS LEADERS have rejected the government decision which widened the network of businesses that are required to pay sales tax and stressed that the decision will lead to higher prices on a large number of products and services and will increase the burden on limited income groups in particular.

The businessmen expressed their concern that the decision might be an extension of another decision that would raise the rate of sales tax and they criticised the widening of the base for the tax in light of current difficult economic conditions.

Meanwhile, the industrialists expressed their support for the decision as it will speed up the process for the government to exempt all production inputs from customs as they have been demanding for many years. At the time, the industrialists reaffirmed their rejection of any increase in sales tax.

The decision to widen the base for the sales tax would affect hotels, restaurants, food and drinks, real estate offices, car rental offices, tourist transport companies, mail courier operations, consultancy services as well as engineering and other technical services. The additional income should cover the gap of JD86 million which the treasury will lose as a result of exempting production inputs from customs. Should the amount be less, the government will have to look for other alternatives to make up for the shortfall.

Filal Jamar, the manager of the association grouping owners of restaurants said the decision will automatically raise the prices of popular foods. He explained that the restaurant which did not pay sales tax in the past will charge the customer for the difference as a result of having to pay tax now. "This decision threatens to close many public restaurants and shops and will limit tourist groups to 5-star level and above," he said.

Salameh Jundi, president of the association grouping car dealers and traders of spare parts, said the decision came at the wrong time and will be a new burden on the people as it will raise costs for services that people need daily. He demanded that the method of calculating and collecting the sales tax be reconsidered so as to be on goods actually sold and not to be taken in advance as that would not be different from levying customs fees. He added that many traders suffer from keeping inventories for a long time. As such, he asked, how could the tax be a sales tax if the goods are not in essence sold?

Hani Khalili, president of the association grouping traders of electrical and electronic appliances affirmed that the decision will undoubtedly affect the consumer but, he said that the alternatives are limited to compensate the treasury for the estimated JD86 million loss in revenue. Khalili explained that the measure was in line with the new world drive to free international trade and raise local taxes.

Khalili said that opposition to the decision was a result of people being unprepared especially under the present difficult conditions. "The decision will be tough on the consumer but the government has no other choice but to plug the expected financial shortfall," he added urging both the private and public sectors to cooperate in implementing the move without harming the interests of the private sector and, at the time, to fulfil the government's general policy drawn a long time ago.

Mohammad Tall, president of the Zargu Chamber of Industry, strongly supported the decision describing it as fair and treating all traders equally. He said the decision will speed up the process of exempting all industrial inputs from customs. However, Tall emphasised that the industrialists reject higher sales tax or imposing any other taxes as that will be a heavy burden on both the merchants and manufacturers at the same time (Al-Dustour).

Dubai traders feel pinch of Iran-Afghan tension

DUBAI (R) — Traders in Dubai, the Gulf's re-export hub, said on Monday that tension between the Afghan Taliban movement and Iran was threatening their lucrative trade with Afghanistan.

"We are hurt, but if tension persists, we expect a 35 per cent drop in our re-exports to Afghanistan," one trader in the Arab emirate told Reuters.

"The decline could be more steep if Tehran decides to ban transit trade to Afghanistan," he said.

"Re-exports to Afghanistan through Iran account for more than 20 per cent of our business," the trader said, adding that his company was now holding back on shipments through Iran.

Tension has mounted between Iran and Afghanistan since the disappearance of 11 Iranian diplomats and one journalist during the Taliban's takeover of the northern opposition stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif a month ago.

Iran has charged that the Taliban took the Iranians hostage.

It staged war games last week involving 70,000 Revolutionary Guards on the border with Afghanistan as a warning. The bulk of the troops have stayed in the border area.

The Islamic Taliban militia, which now controls most of Afghanistan, denied the Iranian charges, but the movement's leader said the Iranians were "probably dead."

Another trader said Dubai-based companies doing business with Afghanistan were seriously considering alternative routes through Pakistan.

"It is a more expensive route, but it is free of political risks," he said.

Traders say more than 80 Dubai-based firms do business with landlocked Afghanistan, usually routing their goods via Iran on the opposite side of the Gulf from Dubai.

The Gulf emirate is a major source of food, spare parts, electronic equipment and household goods imported by Afghanistan, which has no import restrictions.

Dubai traders say most of the goods imported by Afghans are then smuggled to Pakistan or re-sold in Iran.

One trader estimated the value of the re-export trade between Dubai and Afghanistan at about \$300 million a year.

"Tyres top the list of re-exports to Afghanistan followed by other spare parts and electronic equipment," he said.

He said his company ships more than 75 40-foot containers to Afghanistan each year.

New derivatives guidelines issued amid growing concern over risks

BASLE, Switzerland (AFP) — Worried about the risks posed by mammoth derivatives markets, the Basle Committee on Banking Supervision has released updated guidelines for monitoring derivatives trading at banks and securities firms.

The committee is made up of banking supervisory authorities set up by the central bank governors of the Group of Ten countries in 1975.

The revised version of its May 1995 "supervisory information framework" is the latest in a series of steps it has taken with the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) to monitor and improve risk management of derivatives trading.

The guidelines contain examples of the types of information that the two committees deem should be available within firms engaged in derivatives trade or "with significant exposure to market risks."

The initiative comes amid a boom in the trading of derivatives which are instruments — often extremely complex — used by firms to hedge risks on underlying products, be they shares, currencies or bonds.

For instance, the amount outstanding of futures contracts traded on organised exchanges as of March 1998 totalled \$8.6 trillion, up from \$6 trillion in December 1996, according to the latest quarterly banking report of the Bank for International Settlement (BIS).

Turnover on futures markets globally reached a mindboggling \$82.2 trillion in the first quarter of this year, and \$294 trillion for the whole of 1997, according to BIS figures.

The value of options instruments outstanding totalled almost \$5 trillion at end March 1998.

Given this expansion, "it is important that supervisors further improve their understanding of how such activities affect the overall risk profile and profitability of banks and securities firms," a committee statement said.

Derivatives deals are not generally featured on banks' balance sheets, and are thus not covered by standard BIS bank capital asset reserve ratios.

While the BIS has reported in the past that derivatives markets play a vital function in spreading sophisticated globalisation, the complexity and scale of such dealings have created a significant systemic risk.

If one link in the chain were to break down, it could have serious repercussions on counterparties.

Many Japanese banks have large derivatives books, which could aggravate an already precarious bad loan problem.

Sources close to the BIS said the outstanding notional value of derivatives deals at 330 Japanese banks was almost \$4 trillion.

Some 24 banks accounted for 75 per cent of the total figure, the sources said, which works out to an average of around \$165 billion among these banks.

Recently, the head of the troubled Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd. (LTCB) revealed to a parliamentary committee that the bank's notional value of derivatives was 40 trillion yen (\$284 billion).

"No banks with this much trade have ever failed suddenly. I feel very scared," said LTCB's president Katsunobu Onogi who was appealing for taxpayers' funds to bail out his institution.

The Asian financial crisis continued to focus market attention on credit derivatives, the BIS said in its latest report.

"The weakness of the Japanese financial system, particularly following new disclosures of non-performing loans and downgrading of banks, reportedly led market participants to seek active credit protection on the liabilities of Japanese banks and non-financial corporations," the report said.

The British Bankers Association estimates that the outstanding stock of such derivatives reached \$170 billion at the end of 1997 compared to \$40 to \$50 billion at the end of 1996.

The revised framework features a "catalogue of data" relevant for evaluation risks present in trading and derivatives activities.

It suggests ways for supervisors to collect information, such as on-site examinations, external audits, discussions with institutions, and special surveys.

Unlike the original framework, the 1998 update addresses the market risk exposure arising from trading in both cash and derivative instruments, the statement said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You look marvellous. You have 20 times more energy than any normal human being. You'll have to exercise self-discipline. Use your power in a productive way. Make service your first priority. Communicate your enthusiasm and pour it into useful activities. A new light now would be heading in the wrong direction.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) An acquaintance could help you find something you want for your home. But be or might tell you what you can't do rather than point you in the right direction. This isn't as complex as it sounds. Just let people know what you want. Then consider the rejection as important as the acceptance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have a good sense of what a quiet friend needs. These types don't often speak up for themselves, so you become their representative. Don't be intimidated by an outspoken person. Make sure the minority position is voiced before any big decisions are made even if this causes a delay. Tomorrow's better for decisions anyway.

CANCER (June 22 to July 21) You're smart right now, and you'll need every bit of that intelligence. Someone wants to know every detail of a recent transaction. Plan ahead by figuring out the bottom line. Where's the money? Who's got it? Who wants it? How much will be needed? The more information you have, the better impression you'll make.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) The moon's still in Aries, bringing out your feisty side. Aries makes you think you can do anything — then actually get out there and try. You could take on a challenge greater than any you've ever attempted. Make sure you have your parachute packed by an expert. It's OK to be adventurous, but don't be foolish.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) You're in a good spot to see what your future holds. Today, you could figure out how to get the money you need by working with a partner. Even something you've been dreaming about may be possible. It'll take a little work in the beginning, but you might as well get started. It won't get any easier.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It looks like something needs to be handled in private, with an aggressive person. This is a conversation you should have had by now. Stop procrastinating and get started on it ASAP. If you remember to come from love, your communication will be far more effective.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The moon is in Aries. Sometimes that's uncomfortable, but it's always empowering. Aries and Scorpio are both ruled by Mars, so when you two get together, awesome things happen. Even your clashes can be invigorating. Today, use the power you generate to serve others and you'll make miracles happen.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You're being pushed to succeed, whether you want to or not. This could mean more money for you, and more responsibility. You don't mind the money part, but you may be a little worried about the other. Don't be alarmed. You'll get used to it. And you'll be much better at this new assignment than you think.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) It looks like you could find a household item you've been seeking. It just means going a little farther away than usual. Or you could simply step up to the next higher price range. You hate going into debt, but in this case it might be a wise investment.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) It looks like a partner is coaxing you out of your comfort zone. You may not be getting nervous, but don't lose your cool. You may not be sure what to do next, but you can always learn. You're good at that, remember? Don't throw your money around, though. You may need it sooner than you think.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) You're in the mood to buy gifts, and that can be dangerous. You could go through lots of money fast. Shop carefully. Find the perfect thing at a price you can afford. The other person will be delighted at your generosity no matter what you do. So you might as well make it work for you, too.

Oman, India maintain plans for fertiliser plant

MUSCAT (AFP) — Oman and India have maintained their plans to build a jointly owned fertiliser plant in the sultanate despite a fall in oil prices, Oman's commerce and industry minister has said.

"Despite the drop in oil prices, the experts' reports show that this project is viable, which has encouraged both parties to maintain the plan," Maqbul ibn Al-T Sultan said, quoted by the official OMA news agency.

The minister was speaking after a meeting with India's minister in charge of chemical matters Sugit Singh Barnala, who is visiting Oman.

The two countries will build the \$1.1 billion plant to the south of Muscat.

It is a joint venture between the state-owned Oman Oil Company, who will own half the plant, and India's Krishak Bharati Cooperative and Rashtriya Chemical and Fertilisers, who will each own a quarter of the plant.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN 5801001											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 07/09/1998											
PART 12	MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	OIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE	
RICH	LOW				TRANS.	SHARES	JD	PRICE	PRICE		
5	355.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	15.3	4.89	17	240	75860	221.50	223.50	2.00+
2	2.100	1.620	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.3	4.27	2	300	492	1.64	1.64	
8	6.510	2.610	JOR. HOUSING BK.	19.5	3.26	19	9766	29999	3.06	3.07	.01+
3	3.450	1.780	JOR. EMPLOY. BANK	8	0.00	9	643	1136	1.76	1.80	.04+
9	870	1.580	JOR. CREDIT BANK	9	0.00	6	12000	7200	0.60	0.60	
5	3.980	1.690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.5	0.00	8	1162	1987	1.71	1.71	-
3	3.900	1.350	JOR. INV. & TRD. BANK	22.6	3.40	9	1342	1940	1.44	1.47	.03+
	.930	.660	WELFARE INV. BK.	P	0.00	21	32873	22311	.67	.68	.01+
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 294.13	CHNG: +0.79		91	58426	140925			
2	2.350	1.080	ROYAL LAND ESTER.	6.2	0.00	4	14332	15765	1.10	1.10	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 127.16	CHNG: 0.00		4	14332	15765			
5	2.240	1.470	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.7	5.54	9	4046	6030	1.50	1.48	.01-
1	1.480	.740	NATL. PORTFOLIO	30.3	0.00	18	14350	10918	.74	.76	.02+
1	1.220	.680	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.1	0.00	2	1500	1090	.73	.72	.01-
5	2.590	1.100	JOR. CEMENT IND.	4.9	0.00	12	28250	8455	.29	.30	.01+
5	4.600	1.880	ARAB EXPL. & PROD.	9.7	2.05	1	1000	1950	1.95	1.95	-
1	1.070	.890	SARKA EDUCATION	20.8	0.00	2	1500	1350	.90	.90	-
1	1.830	1.040	UNIFIED CO.	5.0	9.73	3	950	1065	1.11	1.13	.02+
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 108.52	CHNG: -0.03		47	51596	30857			
3	3.900	1.840	JOR. COAST FACT.	11.4	5.70	1	1000	1930	1.93	1.93	-
11	1230	10.030	JOR. PETROL. WAREHOUSE	10.2	8.45	12	6221	10.52	10.52	-	
7	7.350	5.900	JOR. WAREHOUSE	7.6	3.45	2	95	551	6.10	5.80	.30-
8	5.740	2.400	ARAB FISH. MARK.	7.3	2.85	19	4588	12086	2.62	2.53	.01+
5	5.590	2.100	JOR. CEMENT IND.	4.9	0.00	4	2650	2999	1.12	1.13	.01+
8	5.540	6.350	ARAB CEMENT. DIVISION	7.6	7.30	2	100	685	6.95	6.85	.10-
6	6.350	4.700	DAR ALKADIA INV. DIV.	6.7	6.25	5	998	5585	5.59	5.60	.01+
3	3.720	1.880	GENERAL INVESTMENT	13.9	0.00	2	1000	4210	.40	.41	.01+
1	1.040	.670	ARAB PAPER CORV. TRD.	24.4	0.00	4	31250	25000	.78	.80	.02+
5	.590	.390	INTEGRATED PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	12	8350	2880	.33	.35	.02+
5	2.300	.700	ARAB CEMENT. WAREHOUSE	32.8	0.00	3	5100	4570	.70	.70	.00+
7	.730	.390	JOR. BUILDING CHAIN	7.8	0.00	32	26100	10574	.40	.41	.01+
7	.700	.390	KAWTHER TRAVEL	9.6	0.00	4	3500	1680	.47	.48	.01+
1	1.200	.530	GEN. INVS. INDS.	9.6	10.00	34	21100	12228	.57	.60	.03+
5	.930	.500	JOR. INVS. BROKERAGE	9	0.00	7	2500	1250	.51	.50	.01-
2	2.600	1.200	ARAB. CLOTHING	8.8	7.94	6	6150	7749	1.25	1.26	.01+
1	1.080	.600	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	8.7	16.13	9	4900	3038	.62	.62	-
1	1.150	.120	KZ - KAY READY WEAR	11.9	0.00	1	350	417	1.18	1.18	.01+
5	1.510	.910	INTEL. TORONCO	6.4	6.41	8	4000	3668	.93	.91	.02-
5	1.220	.860	UNION CH. & WGO.	9.9	0.00	1	150	135	.87	.90	.03+
	.890	.680	ARABIAN STEEL	9.1	8.64	11	19900	16099	.79	.81	.02+
	.710	.580	BAT. ALUMINIUM	32.2	0.00	12	8599	5588	.65	.65	-
	.670	.530	KID. EAST COMPLEX	9.8	0.00	1	1000	540	.54	.54	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 80.04	CHNG: -0.01		194	154250	126300			
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 176.91	CHNG: +0.55		336	278604	313577			
GRAND TOTAL						101	202832	61784			
T : New 12 months high L : New 12 months low S : Stock dividend during the past 12 months P : Listed during the past 12 months R : P/E ratio is 100 or more N : Negative P/E E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year											

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U.S. OPEN

Moya escapes again but Krajicek hobbles out

NEW YORK (AFP) — French Open champion Carlos Moya pulled off another great escape act at the U.S. Open Sunday when he rallied to score a thrilling

nent 6-2, 3-6, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).

Moya had saved three match points and won the final three sets to oust Michael Chang in the sec-

33rd-ranked Swede Thomas Johansson because of a left knee injury.

Britain's Wimbledon semi-finalist Tim Henman celebrated his 24th birthday

try and continue with my own progress in my own game.

Russian 11th seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov defeated 26th-ranked German Nicolas Kiefer 6-4, 6-0, 6-2, to reach the fourth round — matching his best previous showing here in 1994.

The 1996 French Open champion now faces Johansson, 23, who lost his first set 7-6 (7/5) but led the second 5-4 when Krajicek quit, ensuring the Swede would equal his best Grand Slam result — at Wimbledon in 1996.

Henman now faces either 96th-ranked Argentinian Lucas Arnold or 22nd-ranked Australian Mark Philippoussis.

"Today's match gives me as much satisfaction as my previous two," Henman said. "I have lost previous matches under similar circumstances but today I was able to win playing pretty ordinary. If I had lost, my birthday would have been an irrelevance."

"I have lost to a lot of guys lower ranked than him and I've played poor matches against low-ranked guys," Henman said.

"You have to be aware of it. Today was another relevant stepping stone. I played a guy I should beat in difficult conditions —



Australia's Mark Philippoussis returns the ball to Lucas Arnold of Argentina Sunday at the U.S. Open in New York (AP photo)

and I won."

Kohlmann, 24, had played only one ATP match before arriving in New York — in Stuttgart in July. "It's fair to say he had his chances. But I took mine," Henman said. Wind played havoc with

both men. Henman called it the most challenging conditions he has ever faced.

"They were probably the toughest conditions I've ever played in," he said, adding: "The wind was strong and swirling. I don't

think my struggles had so much to do with my opponent or the way he played. It was a lot more to do with the conditions."

Germany's 92nd-ranked Oliver Gross outlasted 133rd-rated American wild

card Geoff Grant 7-5, 6-7, (5/7), 5-7, 6-3, 7-5, to book a date against the winner of a later match between Chilean world number two Marcelo Rios and 34th-ranked Swede Magnus Larsson.



Sweden's Magnus Larsson lies on the court during his five-set match against Chile's Marcelo Rios, Sunday at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York (AP photo)

five-set victory over 57th-ranked American Jan-Michael Gambill in the third round of the men's singles.

The 10th-seeded Spaniard, who trailed by two sets to one, finally needed two hours and 53 minutes to subdue his oppo-

und round just 36 hours early in the Grand Slam event's longest match of 1998, three hours and 49 minutes.

Fifth-seeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek bobbled out of the event when he had to retire during his third-round match against

by dethroning Greg Rusedski as British number one. The 13th seeded Henman defeated 149th-ranked German qualifier Michael Kohlmann, 6-3, 7-5, 1-6, 6-4.

"It's nicer to be number one than number two," Henman said. "I just want to

Ill winds cannot blow away favourites

NEW YORK (AFP) — Swiss world number-one Martina Hingis and former number-one Monica Seles ousted unseeded rivals in swirling winds on Sunday to set up an intriguing quarter-

final showdown against each other at the U.S. Open.

Defending champion Hingis defeated France's 64th-ranked Nathalie Dechy 6-4, 6-4 to 80 minutes while sixth-seeded Seles took just

18 minutes longer to beat 65th-ranked fellow-American Kimberly Po 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Wimbledon champion Jana Novotna also advanced.

ninth-seeded Irina Spirlea of Romania 6-3, 6-3 in 63 minutes and could face five-times U.S. Open winner Steffi Graf in the quarter-finals.

"It was quite difficult out there, quite windy," Novotna said.

"It's difficult to time the ball and so much of my game is timing. You have to just go out there, do your job and play well."

Novotna, who ended a string of Grand Slam frustrations with a victory at Wimbledon in July, has lost here four times in the quarter-finals and another time in the semi-finals but never reached the championship match.

Hingis has a 5-2 advantage in her matches against Seles but the American left-hander won their most recent meetings — 6-3, 6-2 at the French Open and 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 at the Canadian Open.

"I have to raise my level. I'm like 6 or 7. It's going to have to be 9 or 10 against her," Hingis said.

"You must be fast. She has unbelievable angles. She's always attacking you. She is fast. You have to be quicker."

Hingis had 41 unforced errors, six fewer than Dechy, and nine double-faults in the blustery weather.

"I had so much trouble on my returns and serve," Hingis said.

"It's next to you. You want to hit the ball and it's going away from you. You have to be focused and concentrate on every shot. You think it's an easy shot and boom, it's in the net."

Seles, a semi-finalist in six of her past seven events, reached the quarter-finals at the year's final Grand Slam event for her sixth time in a row.

But she fought through what she described as "the worst wind" she has ever faced.

"Wind is wind. But this is more than wind," she said. "You hit a ball and it doesn't go where you want by two metres. I never played in

conditions like this.

"No other tournament I have played in my career has as much wind as this. I don't think any of the players can figure out why. I just don't think it's fair to the players. It's hard to play your game. You have to use so many tactics out there to fight the wind."

"It was so windy. I never felt I could control where the ball was going. Conditions were so tough. It just swirls around. I started pushing the ball more than I should have."

Seles hit a running backhand crosscourt winner for a service break to lead 3-2 in the final set, then saved a break point on her own service with an ace and went on to hold.

"That backhand cross was really a great shot," Seles said.

Seles broke in the final game to take the match, ending the match in 98 minutes when Po sent a forehand into the net.

Po had 40 winners to 17 for Seles, but committed 50 unforced errors, 23 more than Seles, who broke four rackets in the match.

Before the 1993 stabbing that kept her off the WTA Tour for 27 1/2 months, Seles won U.S. Open crowns in 1991 and 1992. She lost to Steffi Graf in the 1995 and 1996 finals.



Number three seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic returns a forehand to number nine seed Irina Spirlea of Romania Sunday at the U.S. Open in Flushing Meadows, New York. Novotna won 6-3, 6-3 (AFP photo)

U.S Open Glance

NEW YORK (AP) — Highlights of Sunday's play in the \$14 million U.S. Open tennis championships:

Weather: Sunny and warm with a high of 91.

Attendance: Day: 25,202 (U.S. Open record). Night: 21,720. Total: 46,922.

Results: Men: Advancing to the fourth round were No. 7 Alex Corretja, No. 10 Carlos Moya, No. 11 Yevgeny Kafelnikov, No. 13 Tim Henman, Magnus Larsson, Mark Philippoussis, Oliver Gross and Thomas Johansson. No. 5 Richard Krajicek retired from his match against Johansson with tendinitis of the left knee. Women: In fourth-round action, No. 1 Martina Hingis defeated Nathalie Dechy, No. 3 Jana Novotna defeated No. 9 Irina

Spirlea, No. 6 Monica Seles beat Kimberly Po and No. 11 Patty Schnyder beat No. 8 Steffi Graf.

State of the Day: Graf's fourth-round loss to Schnyder was the earliest she's been eliminated at the U.S. Open since a first-round loss to Sylvia Hanika in 1984. In 13 appearances prior to this year, Graf reached the semifinals 11 times with five titles and was runner-up three times.

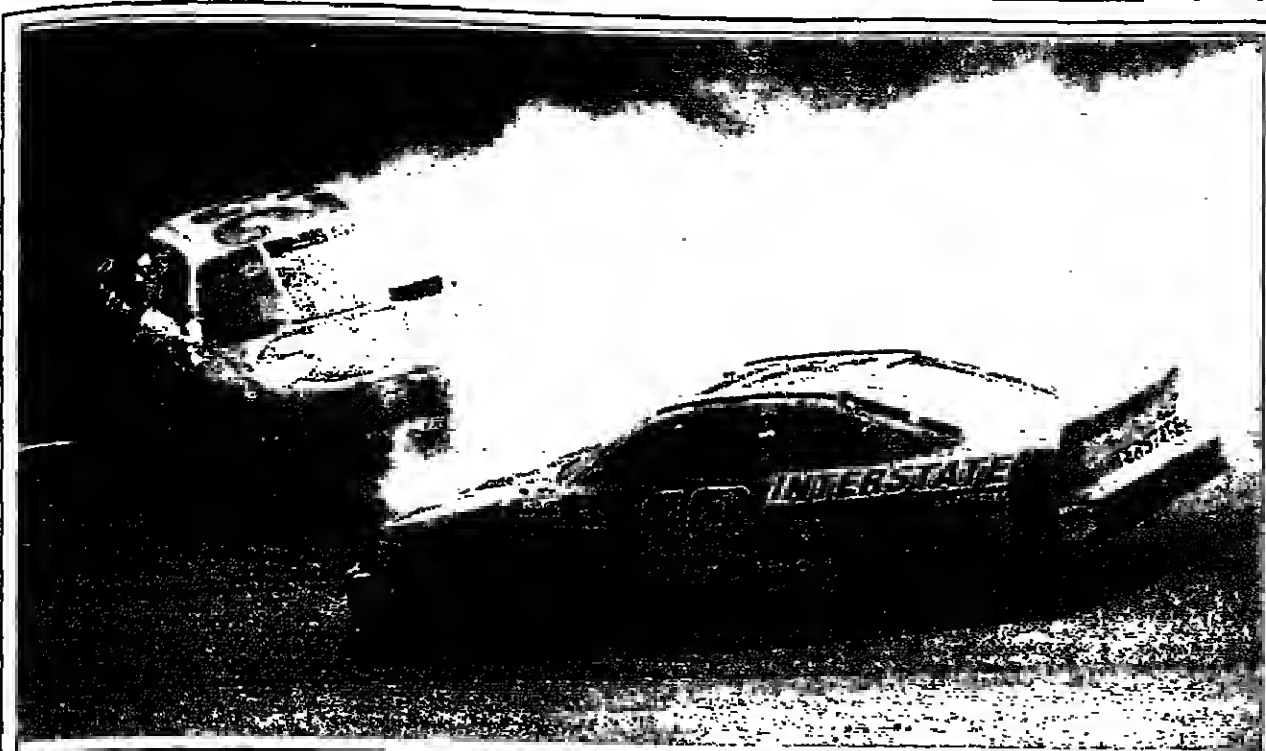
Quote of the Day: "I gave him the match basically... He didn't do anything special." — Jan-Michael Gambill, after losing to Carlos Moya.



Martina Hingis

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	Sophie Marceau...in leo Tolstoy's ANNA KARENINA	NASSER	Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM	CONCORD '1' NASSER	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria	WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW PLAY TERRORISM
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30	Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30	
			Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	UP CLOSE & PERSONAL		Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM at 10:30 p.m.	
				Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only			

out



Jimmy Spencer of Berwick, Pa., skids coming out of the fourth turn Sunday, at the Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway in Darlington, S.C. Passing underneath is Bobby Labonte of Corpus Christi, Texas. Jeff Gordon won the race (AP photo).

Murdoch the Mr. Big of world sport

SYDNEY (AFP) — Rupert Murdoch will join the giants in world sport if he pulls off his bid to take over English football giant Manchester United.

International sports federation officials and industry analysts all now consider the Australian media magnate a major force even though he has no position on any official body.

"As far as influencing sport is concerned he is now up there with Juan Antonio Samaranch," said one international sports federation leader at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

"He may not have a title like Samaranch (president of the International Olympic Committee) but he is getting there," said one sports official, who requested anonymity.

The 50-year-old Murdoch has been very much into sports since he took over News Corporation Limited's long-term agenda, said Michael Heffernan of Sydney-based brokerage Dickson Ltd.

Murdoch's BSkyB satellite television company confirmed Sunday it is preparing to make a \$75 million (£920 million) offer for the English Premiership club before the end of the week.

At least one rival bid is now expected and the matter is set to go before Britain's monopoly commission.

But if Murdoch's bid succeeds, it would make England's most famous football club a prize jewel in his burgeoning sports portfolio, which already makes up a key part of his News Corp. empire dominated by newspapers, television and other publishing interests.

Murdoch already owns the Los Angeles Dodgers.

the U.S. baseball side, through his Fox Group in the United States, which he bought a year ago for \$311 million.

He also has a minority interest in National Basketball Association team the Los Angeles Lakers and their new home arena.

Fox Group is already a major force in sports broadcasting in the United States. It is in the second year of a \$75 million deal to televise baseball. It also has the national broadcast rights to National Football League and the National Hockey League, though some reports say he wants to end the ice hockey contract.

In rugby union, Murdoch was a driving force behind the annual Tri-Nation series between Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and the Super 12 provincial series from clubs from the same countries.

He has won television rights, but the two contests have made Southern Hemisphere nations the world force in rugby union.

Murdoch's BSkyB has made the English Premiership soccer the most profitable football league in the world with its five-year 200 million pound (\$320 million) TV deal. It spent 87 million pounds (\$137 million) on a similar rugby league deal. Fans now enjoy regular live match broadcasts on Sundays and Mondays with BSkyB getting a major say on when the best matches are played.

"Sport is the agenda. Over the last five years he has built up the infrastructure of broadcasting ability and has then gone for content. By far the cheapest production is covering a sporting event," Sydney analyst Heffernan told AFP.

"He is into super leagues, creating a competition of the very best, the elite, and I would assume if you own the wealthiest and strongest club you will have some influence," he added. "It gives him a voice at the table."

Murdoch is believed to be involved in attempts to set up a European Super League of the top 100 soccer clubs.

And he will not want for cash if his planned public float of his U.S. film, TV and sports assets — including the Dodgers — raises the \$3.6 billion expected.

Although News Corp. failed to win control of the Australian rugby league championship last year, in a



File photo dated August 13, 1991 of media tycoon Rupert Murdoch (AFP photo)

six-month legal battle which analysts estimate cost the company \$100 million. Heffernan believed Murdoch had come out a winner by creating a captive audience for his cable TV.

Some supporters groups have already come out against Murdoch buying Manchester United.

But the sports federation leader in Kuala Lumpur, who requested anonymity, said "Murdoch has transformed football in England and the habits of all its followers. People raised doubts then but now they love the cash he has brought in. Football has never had it so good."

Ma had earlier pulled off the greatest upset of the competition by beating number one seed Kong Linghui in the semi-finals.

In the women's doubles, the Chinese duo of Yang Ying and Wu Na beat South Korea's Park Hae Jung and Tyu Ji Hae in straight sets.

Last year, China failed to claim a men's singles title in any of the major international tournaments. But this year, Chinese players have already snatched men's singles titles at the Malaysian Open and Australian Open.

The final result was 19-21, 21-19, 21-13, 21-18. "When I was trailing at the crucial moment, I felt very tough pressure, but finally I became more concentrated and got the win," Liu said after clinching the victory.

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Poles send England a warning as Latvia stun Norway

PARIS (AFP) — Poland sounded a warning to Group Five rivals England on Sunday when they travelled to Bourgas on the Black Sea and handed Bulgaria a 3-0 hammering in their opening Euro 2000 match.

And Latvia showed that Baltic football is on the up and up by coming away from Norway with a stunning 3-1 win to throw Group Two wide open.

Twenty-four hours earlier Lithuania held Scotland to a goalless draw.

Portugal, like Latvia and Poland, another side who failed to make France 98, also got off to a flier by registering an away win of their own, coming from a goal down to beat Hungary 3-1 in Budapest.

The Poles leapfrogged England's conquerors Sweden in Group Five with a stirring performance highlighted by two first-half Czereszewski goals.

Iwan 48 completed the runaway win with the third just three minutes after the restart to sink the spirits of the 15,000 crowd after a fiercely-fought encounter which saw seven bookings.

Angry fans immediately called for the resignation of Bulgarian coach Hristo Bonev, who kept faith with veteran striker Hristo Stoichkov.

All three goals came as a result of swift counter-attacks which were aided by poor defending.

But impressive though the Poles were, it was Latvia who registered the best showing of the night with their triumph in Oslo.

Norway, who bowed out of France 98 in the second round when they were

beaten by a slender 1-0 margin by Italy, were rocked back on their heels when Marians Pahars scored the opening goal on

Ferenc Horvath scored on the half hour for Hungary. But Ricardo Sa Pinto marked his return to international football after a

Slovakia beat Azerbaijan 3-0. In Group Eight, where Ireland surprised World Cup semi-finalists Croatia



Faroe's goalie Jakup Mikkelsen (C) grabs the ball behind the attacking Czech Vartislav Lokvenc (9) watched by Faroe player Hans Frodi Hansen (L) during their Group 9 Euro 2000 qualification match in Toftir, Sept. 6. The Czech Republic won the match 1-0 (AFP photo)

11 minutes.

Stale Solbakken equalised six minutes later but Latvia came again with second-half efforts by Andreja Stolicers and Mihails Zemlinskis.

Latvia are their provisional group leaders ahead of Georgia, 1-0 winners over Albania on Saturday.

In the same group on Sunday, Greece and Slovenia drew 2-2.

Portugal, slammed by their fans in the wake of their failure to qualify for the World Cup, had a shock in Budapest when

twelve month ban with the equaliser on 56 minutes.

Sa Pinto, suspended from football for punching former Portuguese coach Artur Jorge and who joined Spanish side Real Sociedad in the summer, then cracked home a second goal in the 76th minute.

Fiorentina star Rui Costa completed the scoring six minutes from time.

Romania are Group Seven favourites, however, after opening with a 7-0 crushing of Liechtenstein on Saturday, while

2-0 on Saturday in Dublin. Macedonia thrashed Malta 4-0.

And in Scotland's Group Nine, the Czech Republic just crept past the Faroe Islands, 1-0, with a Vladimir Smicer goal six minutes from the end.

Meanwhile, Spain coach Javier Clemente insisted he was staying in his post despite a humiliating 3-2 defeat to tiny Cyprus on Saturday.

"I am not going. I will not quit. I will win my battle to stay in charge," Clemente insisted.

Strunz believes he has put bad times behind him

BONN (R) — Thomas Strunz believes he has put the bad times behind him.

"I'm enjoying playing football again," said the defensive midfielder, an important figure in German first division leaders Bayern Munich's opening two victories of the season.

"A few months ago everybody was counting me out," added Strunz who is looking to play a key role in maintaining Bayern's 100 per cent league start to the season in the home match against Hansa Rostock on Wednesday.

Not only did Strunz fail to shine last season but he also fell out with coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

He was fined 10,000 marks (\$5,800) for criticising Trapattoni and found himself on the substitutes' bench for much of the season.

After Bayern lost their title to Kaiserslautern, Trapattoni was replaced by Ottmar Hitzfeld who steered Borussia Dortmund to the 1997 European Cup.

Hitzfeld, whose squad features 16 internationals, gave Strunz a second chance, naming him in his starting line-up when the season began.

Strunz has repaid Hitzfeld's faith in him so well that he should be a certain starter for the match against Rostock.

"Our goal is the title and we're

certainly strong enough to achieve it," said Strunz, aware that a few more brilliant performances could earn him a recall to the German national side.

The only other side to have won their first two matches are champions Kaiserslautern, who face an interesting test away to European Cup winners' Cup finalists VfB Stuttgart on Tuesday.

Kaiserslautern's Swiss international Ciriaco Sforza, who had been nursing a nasty ankle injury, is fit again and will take care of the playmaking duties. Coach Otto Rehagel is adamant that his goal this season is a top-five placing but his captain has other ideas.

"If we can keep the spirit we had last year, and our first matches suggest we can, there is no reason why we should not retain our title," Sforza said.

Bayer Leverkusen, who have finished in the top three in the past two seasons, have fond memories of their past two home encounters against Hamburg SV who they play host to on Wednesday. They won both 5-0.

Borussia Dortmund, who finished a miserable 10th last year, will have their work cut out against newly-promoted Nuremberg on Wednesday. Nuremberg are unbeaten after their opening two matches.

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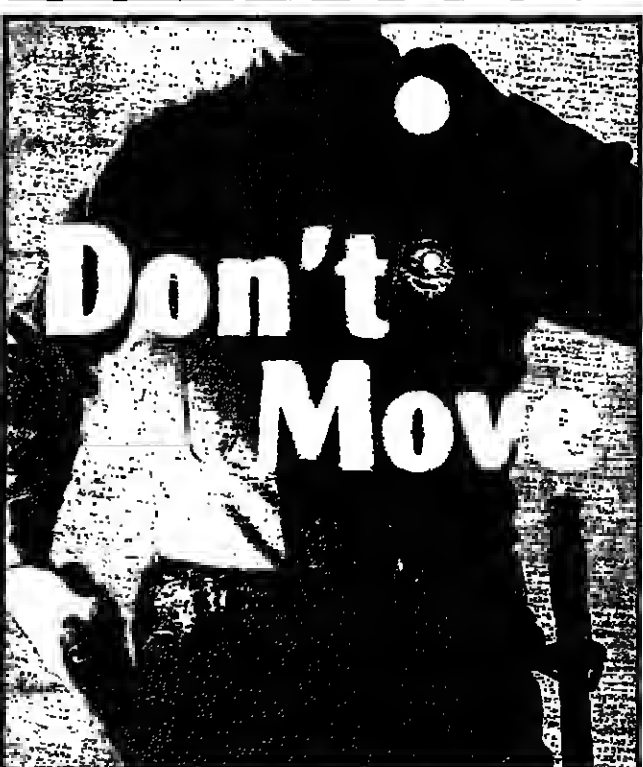
Vogts resigns as German coach

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Berti Vogts, Germany's beleaguered coach, has resigned, the German Football Federation (DFB) announced here Monday.

Vogts, 51, who replaced Franz Beckenbauer after Germany's 1990 World Cup triumph, made the decision to go following a telephone conversation with DFB President Egidius Braun.

A DFB statement said a successor would be found as soon as possible with Germany's opening Euro 2000 match against Turkey just a month away.

A huge question mark had hung over Vogts' tenure after the media slammed his side's performances in last week's friendlies, which brought a lame 2-1 win over Malta and a draw with Romania.



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Daily showers cast doubts on opening ceremony

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Worried that heavy downpours could wash out Friday's opening ceremony, organizers of the 1998 Commonwealth Games said Monday they were looking for special equipment to drain water from the main arena.

Rain was the main problem facing the elaborate opening ceremony, said Abdul Manap Ibrahim, chief operating officer of the games' organizing committee.

"We need to clear the water from the surface so that the performers will not slip during their routines. More equipment will be placed on standby to clear up any puddles of water," said Sports Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.

Marchers may be given transparent raincoats, he said. A few performances had to be cancelled because of

heavy rain during a rehearsal Sunday but they would be held on Friday, Abdul Manap was quoted as saying by Bernama news agency.

Almost every day in the last week, skies have darkened in late afternoon and heavy rain has poured. It rained again Monday around the time the opening ceremony is scheduled to start.

Thousands of performers, including schoolchildren participating in the choreographed show, were drenched. The ceremony is to feature several local musicians and singers and a brass band drawn from 14 schools.

"I am proud of the performers who are basically young children. They behaved like professionals out there despite the rain," said Yassin.

A second rehearsal was scheduled Wednesday at the Bukit Jalil stadium, which can accommodate 100,000 spectators.

China makes clean sweep of China Grand Prix

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese players mopped up the remaining two titles of the China table tennis Grand Prix to take a clean sweep of the competition, Xinhua reported Monday.

Only one medal in the \$61,000 event — silver in the women's doubles — went to a non-Chinese player.

"The clean sweep shows that our players have made great improvement after a long period of training over the winter," said Cai Zhenhua, head coach of the Chinese national team.

"If we can maintain this momentum, we can win at least four gold medals at the Asian Games in Bangkok in December," he added.

In a gripping game for the men's singles title, second seed Liu Guoliang eventually beat compatriot Ma Lin after going down a set at the start and almost conceding

the fourth set.

The final result was 19-21, 21-19, 21-13, 21-18.

"When I was trailing at the crucial moment, I felt very tough pressure, but finally I became more concentrated and got the win," Liu said after clinching the victory.

Ma had earlier pulled off the greatest upset of the competition by beating number one seed Kong Linghui in the semi-finals.

In the women's doubles, the Chinese duo of Yang Ying and Wu Na beat South Korea's Park Hae Jung and Tyu Ji Hae in straight sets.

Last year, China failed to claim a men's singles title in any of the major international tournaments. But this year, Chinese players have already snatched men's singles titles at the Malaysian Open and Australian Open.

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